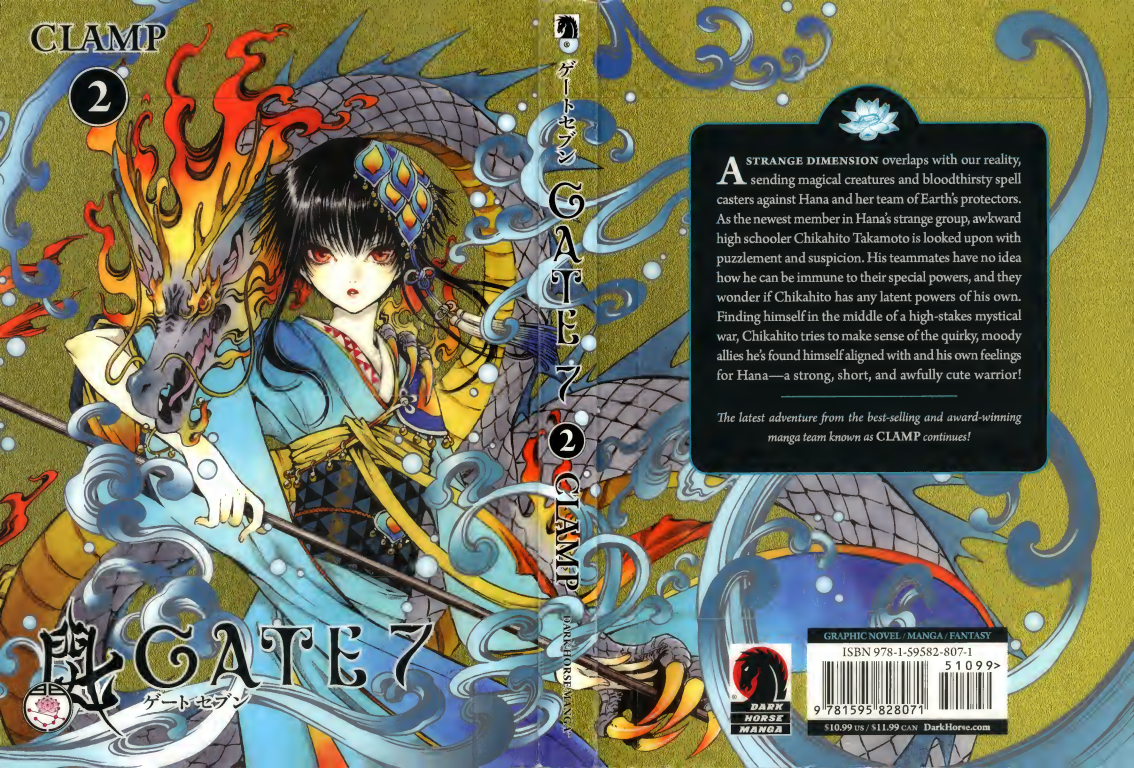
CLAMP
2
GATE 7
ゲートセブン
CLAMP
DARK HORSE MANGA
A STRANGE DIMENSION overlaps with our reality, sending magical creatures and bloodthirsty spell casters against Hana and her team of Earth's protectors. As the newest member in Hana's strange group, awkward high schooler Chikahito Takamoto is looked upon with puzzlement and suspicion. His teammates have no idea how he can be immune to their special powers, and they wonder if Chikahito has any latent powers of his own. Finding himself in the middle of a high-stakes mystical war, Chikahito tries to make sense of the quirky, moody allies he's found himself aligned with and his own feelings for Hana—a strong, short, and awfully cute warrior!
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GATE 7 VOLUME 2

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GATE 7 2

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GATE 7
ゲート セブン

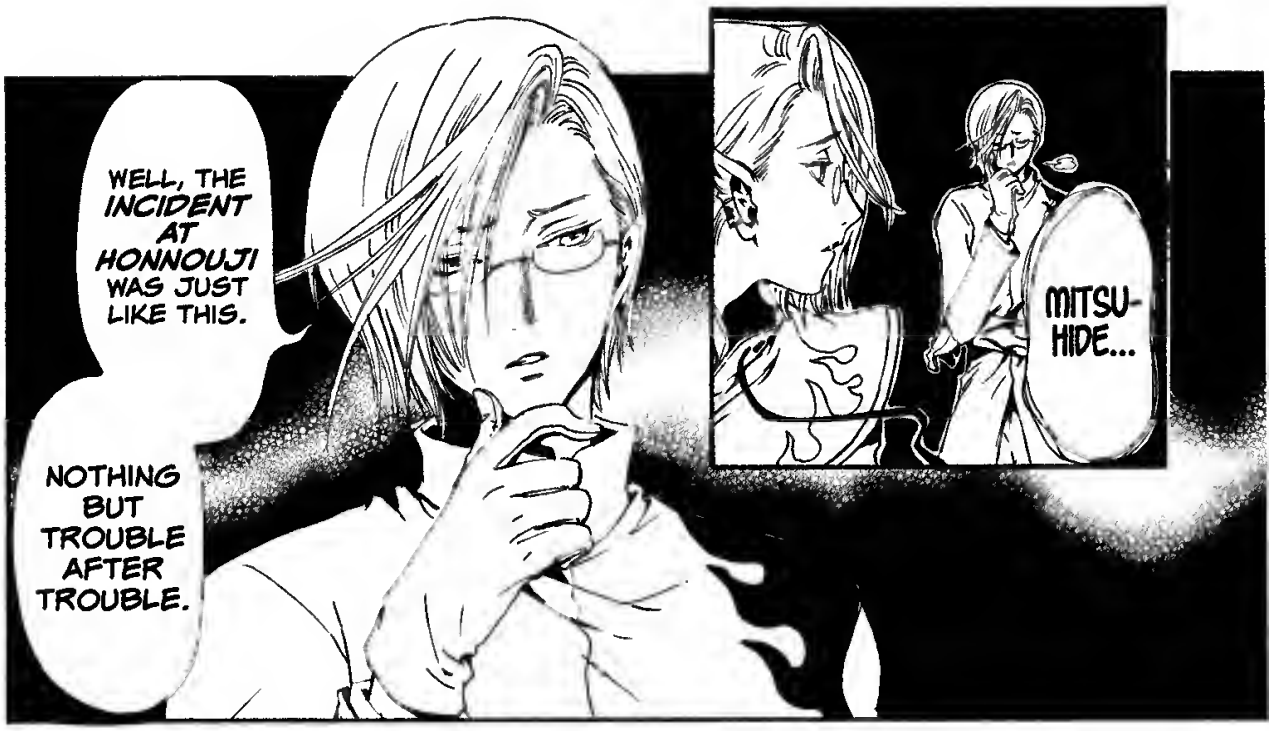
KRAKOOM
HANA-SAN!!
Myoho!
Ooibana!
POHH

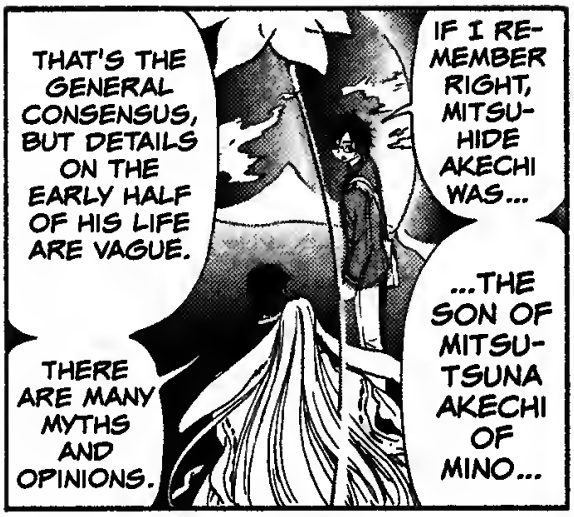
WHOOSH
UUAH!!

SO YOU HID HIDETSUGU AND THE OTHERS.
YOU CAN ACHIEVE THAT WITHOUT THE TWO *TREES* BY YOUR SIDE?
WAIT!
EH?
I CAN SEE THROUGH THIS! WHY?!

SO YOU THINK THIS ONE HAS A SPECK OF INTELLI-GENCE?
NOW, NOW...
HE'S JUST HAD HIS DEBUT HERE.
HEY! I DIDN'T HAVE A "DEBUT"!
OOI-BANA.
FROM THE INSIDE, THOSE COVERED ARE ABLE TO SEE THROUGH TO THE OUTSIDE...
...BUT FROM THE OUTSIDE, THEY SEEM TO HAVE VANISHED FROM EXISTENCE.
TH-THAT'S AMAZ-ING!
IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S TECH-NIQUE, THOUGH ...
WHERE DID HANA GET IT?
EH?

NOW THAT IS TROUBLE-SOME.
THIS MAKES ...
...ANY KIND OF BATTLE...
...INTENSELY TROUBLE-SOME.


WELL, THE INCIDENT AT HONNOUJI WAS JUST LIKE THIS.
NOTHING BUT TROUBLE AFTER TROUBLE.
MITSU-HIDE...


IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, MITSU-HIDE AKECHI WAS...
...THE SON OF MITSU-TSUNA AKECHI OF MINO...
THAT'S THE GENERAL CONSENSUS, BUT DETAILS ON THE EARLY HALF OF HIS LIFE ARE VAGUE.
THERE ARE MANY MYTHS AND OPINIONS.

CONSIDERING THE LIFE OF LUXURY I WAS BORN INTO, I SHOULD HAVE NO NEED TO RULE.
I COULD HAVE STUDIED THE SUBJECTS I ENJOYED, BUILDING WHATEVER I FELT LIKE BUILDING...
...AND NEVER MAKING WAVES--PREFERRING AN EXISTENCE OF TRANQUILLITY.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE ONLY ONE WHO REALLY KNOWS IS THE MAN HIMSELF. WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM?
SHAKE
SHAKE

GLANCE
WELL, YOU'LL BE MISUNDER-STOOD AGAIN!
GLANCE
WH--
WHEN YOU SAY IT THAT WAY...
HMPH
TO BE BLUNT ...
...I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF IT.
MITSUHIDE!
ALL THOSE RUMORS THAT I WAS HEARTLESS AND UNPOPULAR WERE COMPLETELY TRUE, SO WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
MOST ACCOUNTS PAINT A MORE AMBI-TIOUS PICTURE.
HE SEEMS SO DIFFER-ENT FROM WHAT THE BOOKS SAY ABOUT HIM!
WAS AKECHI LIKE THIS DURING THE WARRING-STATES PERIOD?
AH!
HOW DO YOU GET "RATION-ALIST" FROM THAT?!
YES, HE'S THAT!
A RATION-ALIST?
RATCHNAL--
RAT--
IS THIS NOT THAT THING YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?

IS THAT WHY, DURING THE INCIDENT AT HONNOUJI, WHEN NOBUNAGA HAD ONLY ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MEN WITH HIM...
...AKECHI BROUGHT MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND?
WELL, HE'S CERTAINLY THE TYPE WHO HATES THE PHRASE "JUST GO FOR IT"...
...AND THE CONCEPT OF "DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY."
...THEN WHY WOULD HE ATTACK NOBUNAGA?
BUT IF HE HAD NO INTEREST IN TAKING CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY...
BUT...
YOU SEE...
...THE ONI CALLED DAIROKUTEN-MAOH IS SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.

BACK THEN...
FFSSH
...I WAS UNABLE TO DEFEAT THEM AT HONNOUJI.
NOBUNAGA AND DAIROKUTEN-MAOH.
HYUU
THIS TIME DAIROKUTEN-MAOH WILL BE MINE!
HYUUU

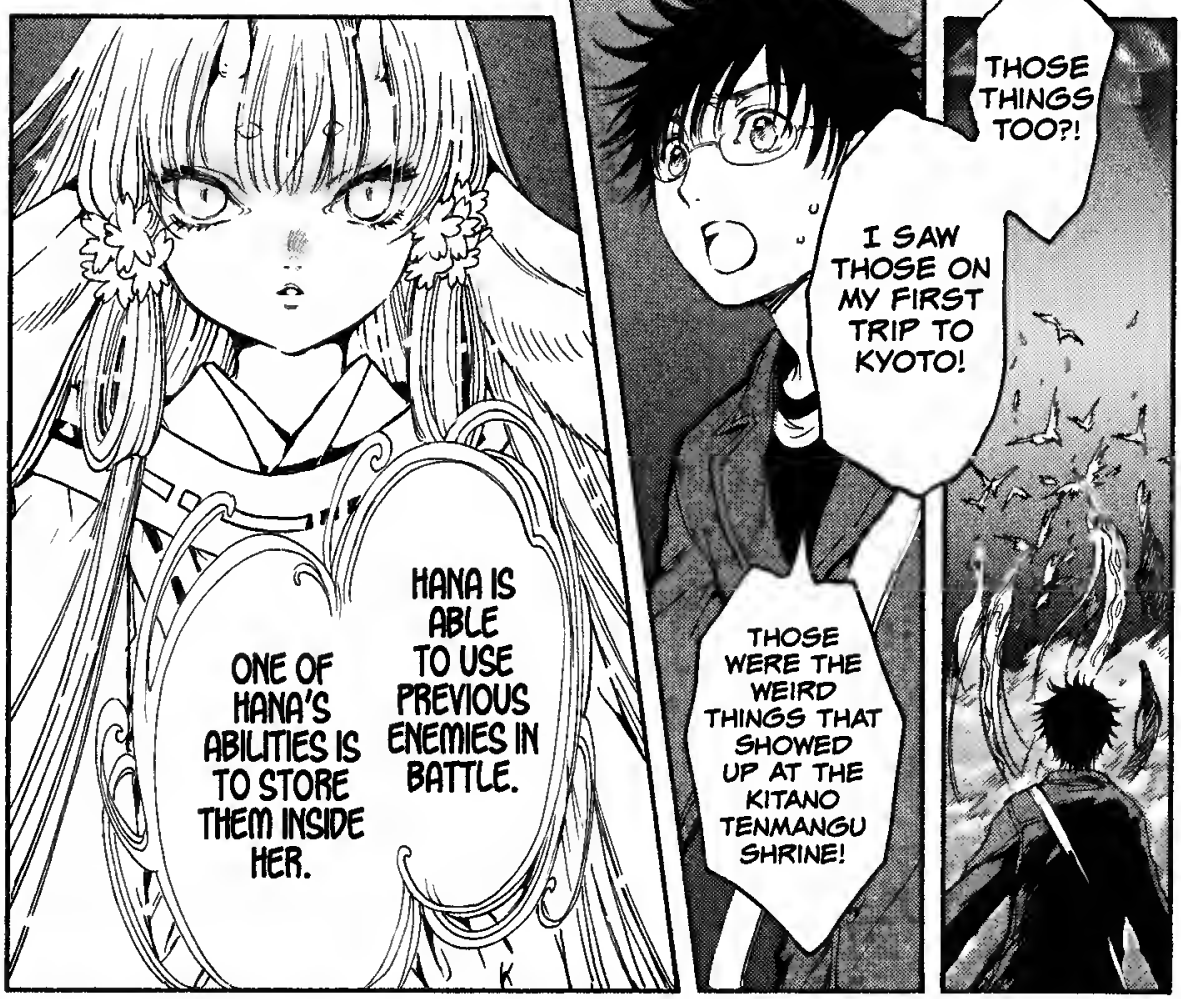
THMP
THMP
EWSH
AH, A QUICK DODGER.
HOW DULL.
FWASSH

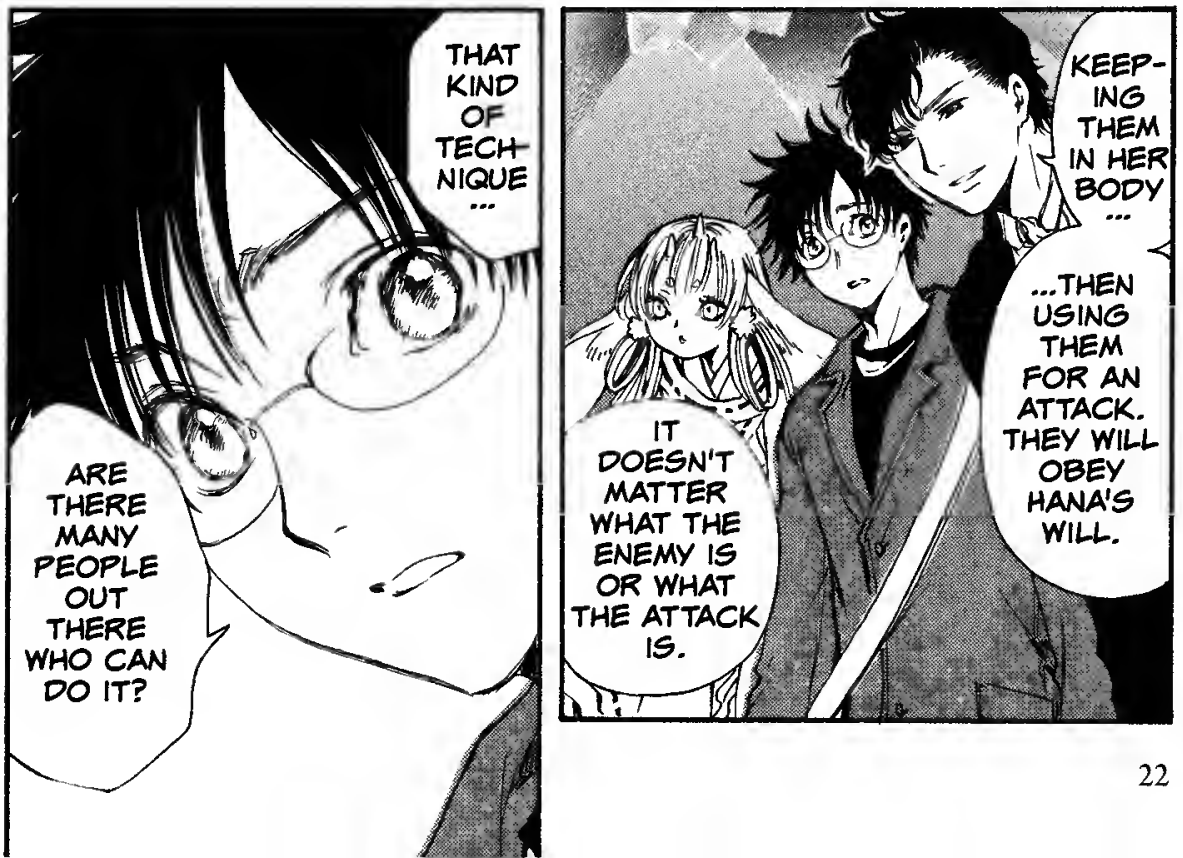
Myoho!
VNN
Suizan!
GEAN

HUH?
SOME-HOW...
HM?
WHAT IS THIS?
THOSE THINGS THAT LOOK LIKE WATERY DISKS...
...THEY LOOK LIKE...
...THE THINGS AT THE YASUI SHRINE...
...THOSE DISKS THAT SHOT OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE THING TACHIBANA-SAN CALLED A SHISHI!

AHHH
AHHHH
WHOOM

WHOOSH
Myoho!
Tsuchihebi!
SHAA


THOSE THINGS TOO?!
I SAW THOSE ON MY FIRST TRIP TO KYOTO!
THOSE WERE THE WEIRD THINGS THAT SHOWED UP AT THE KITANO TENMANGU SHRINE!
HANA IS ABLE TO USE PREVIOUS ENEMIES IN BATTLE.
ONE OF HANA'S ABILITIES IS TO STORE THEM INSIDE HER.


KEEPING THEM IN HER BODY ...
...THEN USING THEM FOR AN ATTACK. THEY WILL OBEY HANA'S WILL.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE ENEMY IS OR WHAT THE ATTACK IS.
THAT KIND OF TECHNIQUE ...
ARE THERE MANY PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO CAN DO IT?

NO.
I'VE HEARD OF NO ONE BUT HANA.
NOR I.
HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING TO PLAY AROUND ...
...ENKA?!
I AM NOT PLAYING, AND...
...MY OPPONENT IS FIGHTING WELL!
ENKA!
I WISH TO GET BACK HOME RIGHT NOW FOR TEA...
...AND CAKES!

FWOO
WOOSH

KRR
KRR
KRR
WOOSH
HANA-SAN!!
HANA-- WITH NO WEAPONS-- FIGHTING A BURNING HIKUIDORI?
THAT'S A TERRIBLE DISAD-VANTAGE.
HANA IS ATTEMPTING TO EXPAND THE LIMITS OF MYOHO EVEN MORE.
WEAPONS ...?

THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN CREATE WEAPONS ARE...
...TACHI-BANA...
...AND SAKURA.
WITHOUT THEM, HANA CANNOT RELEASE MYOHO'S TRUE POWER.
ARE YOU KIDDING ?!
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S FINALLY OVER.
PHEW!
AH!

FWOO
MAYBE NOT...?
TEA AND CAKES?

IS IT NOBUNAGA'S CORPSE THAT YOU WANT...
...OR IS IT DAIROKUTEN-MAOH?

FAR INSIDE THE DEPTHS OF THE HANA MACHI...
...THERE ARE SOME HANA MACHI RESIDENTS BEING USED BY THE TOYOTOMI CLAN.
HOW DARE A TENANT OF DARKNESS ASK SUCH A QUESTION OF ME?
Answer it!
SHIVER

I WANT BOTH.

WHY DO YOU WANT THEM?

IF ONE CONTROLS AN *ONI*, IT IS ONLY NATURAL TO WANT TO KNOW JUST HOW POWERFUL IT IS.
BUT...
...WHAT *IS* CERTAIN IS THAT NOBUNAGA USED HIS *ONI* TO ASCEND TO THE APEX OF POWER-- TO THE "ORIGIN OF THE SUN."

NOBU-NAGA ODA-KO...
...SUP-POSEDLY CONTROLLED THE GREATEST *ONI* EVER.
HOWEVER, ITS FORM WAS NEVER REVEALED.

THAT'S WHY YOU BURNED DOWN HONNOUJI?
I AM...
...ALWAYS INTERESTED IN KNOWLEDGE FOR KNOWL-EDGE'S SAKE.
FWIP
AND FOR DAIRO-KUTENMAOH, I WILL GO THROUGH ANY PAINS.
THE GREATEST ONI...
...AND THE MAN WHO ENTERED INTO A CONTRACT WITH THAT ONI.
THIS TIME, I'LL SOLVE THE MYSTERY.
No, that won't do!

EH?

AND TO ACCOMPLISH THAT...
...I MUST FIRST ELIMINATE THE URASHICHIKEN MEMBERS WHO ARE IN MY WAY.
KRACKLE
KRACKLE

AAAH! HA HA HA!!
SLURP
YOU'VE GOT SOME LUKEWARM FLAMES...
...AKECHI!

THOOM

YOU CERTAINLY ...
WHO'S THAT?
AH...
...ALWAYS SEEM TO INTERFERE AT JUST THE WRONG INSTANT...
...DON'T YOU, MASAMUNE DATE-KO?
EHHH?!

WHP
YOU DON'T GET TO LAY A FINGER ON MY LITTLE KITTY HERE!
BELL-FLOWER SEAL!
おぉ
おぉ
OOOH!
DATE... THE ONE-EYED DRAGON?!
BUT... ANYWAY YOU LOOK AT HIM, HE'S JUST A KID!
IN HEIGHT, TOO.
ちゅ
SMACK
HE OVERREACTS EVERY TIME. WHY DOES HE NOT BURST A VEIN?
SUCH A NEW ONE.

SHFF
NO!
DOES IT HURT ANY-WHERE ...
...HANA ?
MAA-KUN IS ALWAYS ...
...THAT WAY.
GOOD THING FOR YOU...
...AKECHI.
IF YOU EVER GIVE HANA A WOUND THAT LEAVES A SCAR...
...I WILL SPLIT YOU IN TWO ON THE SPOT!
WSHIK
EVEN IF THERE WERE NO URA-SHICHIKEN TENANTS AROUND...
...MASA-MUNE-KO IS TROUBLE ENOUGH.
ENKA ...
CAKE!

...IN THE NEAR FUTURE, I WILL HAVE YOUR ONI, ALONG WITH HIDETSUGU'S ONI...
...MASA-MUNE-KO.
SIGH!
LET US HEAD STRAIGHT HOME AND HAVE SOME.
BUT ...
VENN
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, I'LL SEPARATE YOU AND YOUR CLONE'S HEADS FROM YOUR BODIES!
SO ENJOY THE SUS-PENSE UNTIL THEN!

HAAAAAA!!
ZING
THANK YOU, MASAMUNE.
TODAY IS THE SECOND-BEST DAY OF MY ENTIRE LIFE!
PAT ぽん
PAT ぽん
I WAS ABLE TO HELP HANA IN A PINCH!
AND YOUR BEST DAY...?
GLEAM
IT'LL BE MY WEDDING NIGHT WITH HANA!

YO, HIDE-TSUGU.
WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL, HUH?
GOT A DAY OFF.
MAA-KUN NEVER CHANGES, DOES HE?
=SIGH!= TOO TRUE.
YOU'RE IN THE SIXTH GRADE, RIGHT?
ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT?
SIGH!
IT'S A CRITICAL TIME, AFTER ALL.
I TOOK MY OWN DAY OFF.
THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS HAVE DAYS OFF ON WEEKDAYS?
WHOOSH
SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO MY KITTEN ?!
NOTHING'S ALL RIGHT!

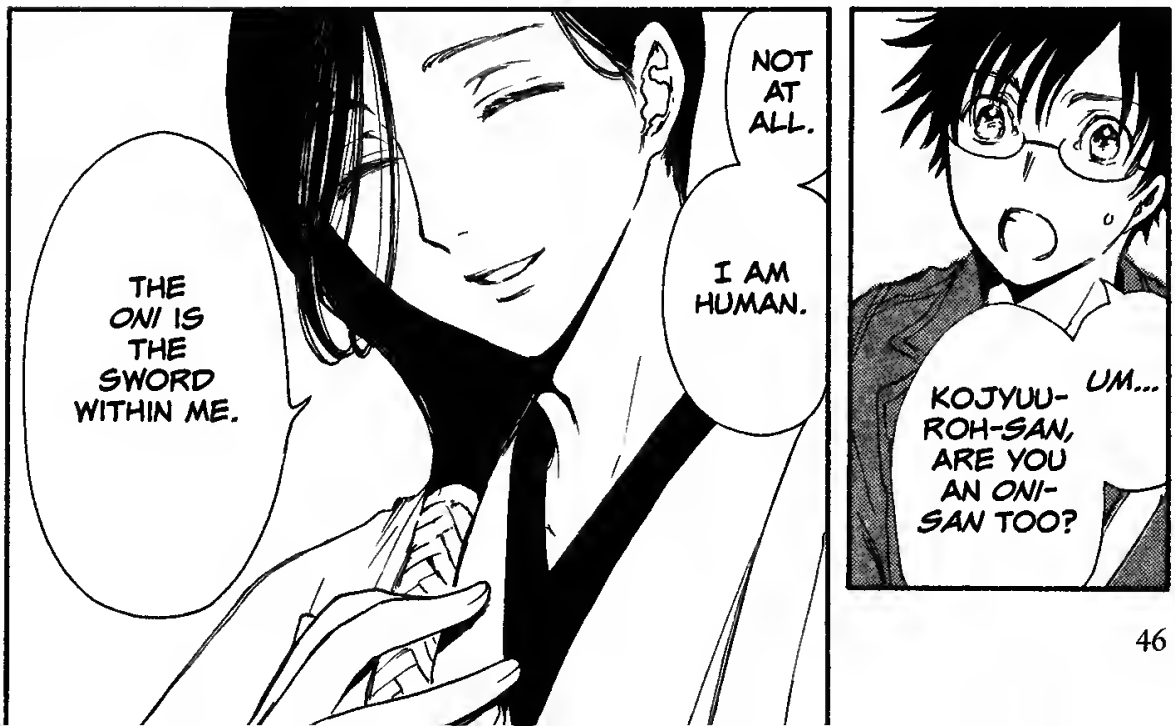
HIDETSUGU!!
I HEAR THERE'S SOMEBODY NEW AT URA-SHICHIKEN?!
HIS VOICE AND BEING ARE TRULY NOISY.
YOU PICK UP ON RUMORS FAST, HMM?
I COULD PROBABLY OVERLOOK IT IF THE PERSON HAD AN *ONI* SOMEHOW OR WAS A RELATION!
!!
YES.
I'M STILL WONDERING WHY YOU ACCEPTED *TACHIBANA*!
BUT WHAT I REALLY WANT TO KNOW...
...IS IF THIS NEW GUY IS REALLY LIVING THERE?!

HE'S SCARY!!
CHIKA-HITO.
TWITCH
I'M MOVING THERE, TOO! I'M TRANS-FERRING RIGHT NOW!
SO WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE?! THIS NEW TENANT?!
GYAAAH !!
WHY DON'T I JUST KILL YOU RIGHT AWAY?!

AH!
あ
AH!
あ
OWW!
FWASSH
CLENCH
JUST HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU THAT IT'S WRONG TO POINT SWORDS AT PEOPLE?!
AND YET YOU NEVER COMPREHEND IT?!
LISTEN, YOU--
YOU COULD'VE MADE ME BITE MY TONGUE OFF, KOJYUU-ROH!!
KOJYUU-ROH...?
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEBODY RELATED TO MASAMUNE DATE, THAT'D BE KOJYUUROH KATAKURA, MASAMUNE'S STRATEGIST.

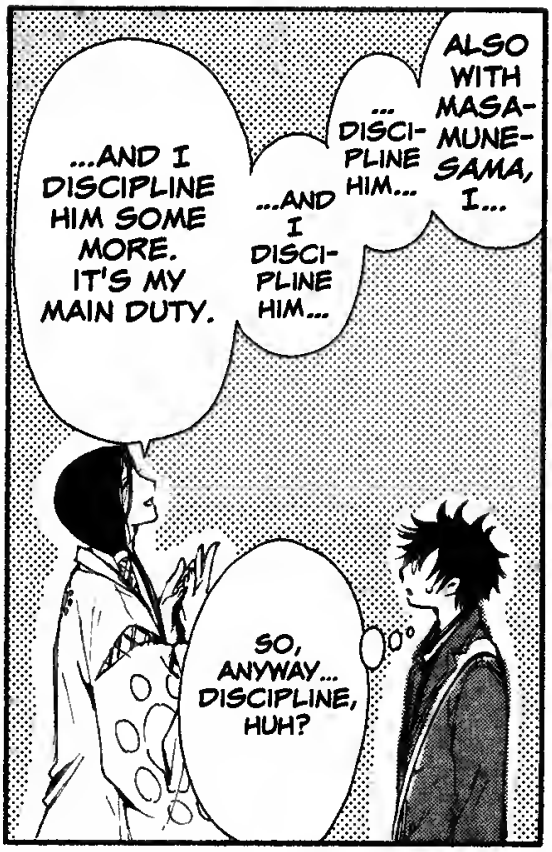
YOU KNOW US SO WELL!
YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE AN ONI, SO I ASSUME YOU HAVE SOME INOU POWER?
OH, HO!
NO, NO. HE JUST LOVES KYOTO HISTORY.
WHY ARE YOU GOING AROUND SAYING NAMES WITHOUT HONORIFICS?!
I'M MASA-MUNE-SAMA TO YOU!
POINT POINT
THE BATTLE'S OVER, ISN'T IT?
WE SHOULD CLEAN UP NOW...?
WAIT--
WAIT JUST A SECOND!
VVVV
NNH

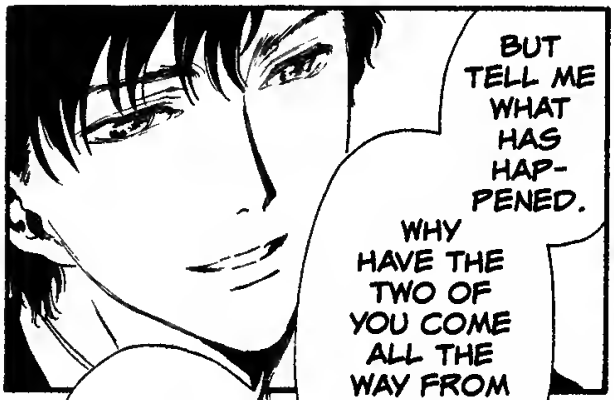
SUCH A NATURAL REAC-TION.
HE'S ONLY JUST HAD HIS DEBUT.
THERE WAS NO DEBUT!
WHAT?!


UM...
KOJYUU-ROH-SAN, ARE YOU AN ONI-SAN TOO?
NOT AT ALL.
I AM HUMAN.
THE ONI IS THE SWORD WITHIN ME.

THE ONI CALLED KURIKARA HAS A BLOOD CONTRACT WITH MASAMUNE.
BUT THE ONI WAS SUCH AN EXTRAVAGANT THING.
MASAMUNE GAVE IT ONE EYE...
...BUT IT NEEDED MUCH MORE SACRED ENERGY THAN THAT.
SO THEY OFFERED UP THE ENERGY OF THE ONE WHO WOULD PROTECT KURIKARA.
OVER THE GENERATIONS, THE ONLY ONE AT ANY TIME WHO CAN MANAGE AND PROTECT IT...
...IS THE ONE PERSON IN THE KATAKURA FAMILY WHO IS IDENTIFIED AS KOJYUU-ROH.
SO WHILE DATE WIELDS THE SWORD, KATAKURA IS THE SHEATH.

DON'T GO DIGGING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS...
...HIDE-TSUGU!
あはは
AH HA HA HA!


ALSO WITH MASA-MUNE-SAMA, I...
... DISCI-PLINE HIM...
...AND I DISCI-PLINE HIM...
...AND I DISCIPLINE HIM SOME MORE. IT'S MY MAIN DUTY.
SO, ANYWAY... DISCIPLINE, HUH?


BUT TELL ME WHAT HAS HAP-PENED.
WHY HAVE THE TWO OF YOU COME ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO TO KYOTO?
AFTER ALL, TOKYO IS CLOSER TO YOUR ANCESTRAL HOME OF SENDAI.

I'LL TELL YOU.
I HEAR A LOT WHEN IT COMES TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE ONI.

SOMEONE ELSE IS AFTER NOBUNAGA AND DAIRO-KUTEN-MAOH.
TOKUGAWA IS ON THE MOVE!

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

HGAAH!
SHUDDUP!
THERE IS A LIMIT TO HOW PATHETIC A FACE CAN LOOK.
MASA-MUNE-SAMA?
I'M JUST SITTING HERE ADORING THE CUTEST THING ON THIS PLANET.
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
GLARE

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
POP
UUMEN!
UUMEN!
UUMEN!
I APOLOGIZE FOR ALWAYS BRINGING THE SAME GIFT.
WELL, IT'S THE BEST PRESENT THAT HANA COULD RECEIVE, ISN'T IT?
WFFF
YEAH!
SHE'S JUST SOOOOOO CUTE!
OH, HANA!

YES!
GO AHEAD AND START.
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!!
DOOM
...he says.
"Go ahead and start"...
AH...
UM...
EH...
...MR. FREE-LOADER ?!
WHO ARE YOU TO PUSH NOODLES LIKE YOU OWN THE PLACE...

DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
HANA ...
...YOU'RE JUST THE ABSOLUTE BEST!
THERE IS SKILL BEHIND THIS.
CHIKAHITO-KUN'S HANDMADE MEAL.
THESE ARE MADE WITH A MEAT-BASED MISO SAUCE.
CHATTER
CHATTER
DELICIOUS.
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET HANA BURNED AND COME OUT UNSCATHED YOURSELF?
GLARE
I-I'M SORRY!
IT ISN'T CHIKAHITO'S FAULT.
HANA-SAN--

AND I WAS OKAY BECAUSE TACHIBANA MADE ME WEAR A COAT.
WHEN YOU SAY "COAT" ...
...UM...

SHINE!
UMM...

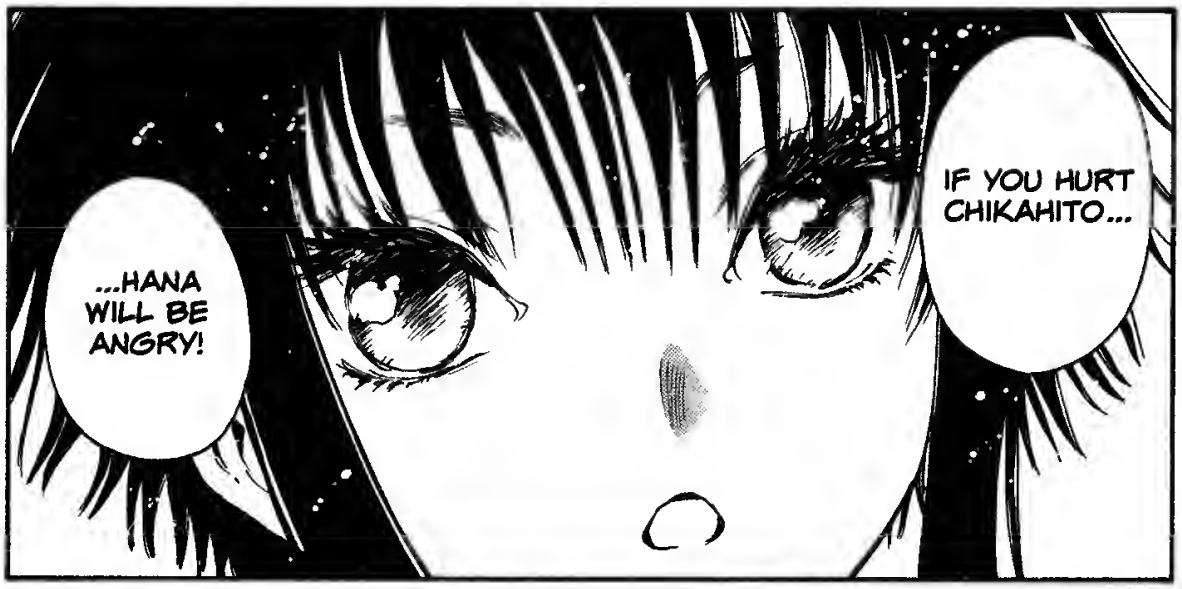
GLARE

TACHIBANA IS SUCH A WORRIER-- HE PUT SOME SAFETY WARDS ON THE COAT.
AND MY INTER-VENTION HELPED, TOO.
RIGHT, HANA?
YEAH. THANKS!

OH, OKAY!
IT'S DELI-CIOUS!
DON'T LET IT GET STRINGY.
I WANTED HANA TO SAY THAT TO ME!
HMMPH!
ちぇっ
YOURS WILL GET STRINGY.
YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE NOT HURT ANYWHERE?
I'M SURE.
I'M JUST FINE.
うごご
WRIGGLE
うごご
WRIGGLE
YOURS TOO, TACHI-BANA.
OKAY?

AH!
YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A DELIVERY?
EXACTLY!
AS ALWAYS, TACHIBANA'S PERSONALITY ONLY CHANGES WHEN HANA IS AROUND.
I WANTED TO GIVE A PROPER GREETING TO THE NEW TENANT OF OUR URA-SHICHIKEN.
はは HA HA HA!
GLARE
IT ISN'T JUST THE FREELOADER.
IT WAS YOUR SELFISHNESS, HIDETSUGU, THAT LED TO THIS!
HE REALLY IS TOO DUMB FOR WORDS.
THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO SAY IT-- "ABSTRACTED."
THAT STILL DOES NOT SOUND LIKE PRAISE.
IT WAS YOU.
EH?

CHIKA-HITO IS SPECIAL.
AFTER ALL, HE HAS SOMETHING THAT WOULD MAKE HANA CALL HIM ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO TO STAY HERE.
ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!
FWSH
GYAAAH!
KOJYUUROH-- UNSHEATHE KURIKARA!
FWSH


IF YOU HURT CHIKAHITO...
...HANA WILL BE ANGRY!

HANA GETS ANGRY?
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET ANGRY!
BWAAAH!
うわぁん
THERE, THERE!
SEE? HE'S SPECIAL.

I TRULY WONDER WHY DATE IS HERE.
SHINING
TO GET ALL CUDDLY WITH HANA, OF COURSE!
MASA-MUNE-SAMA...
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM

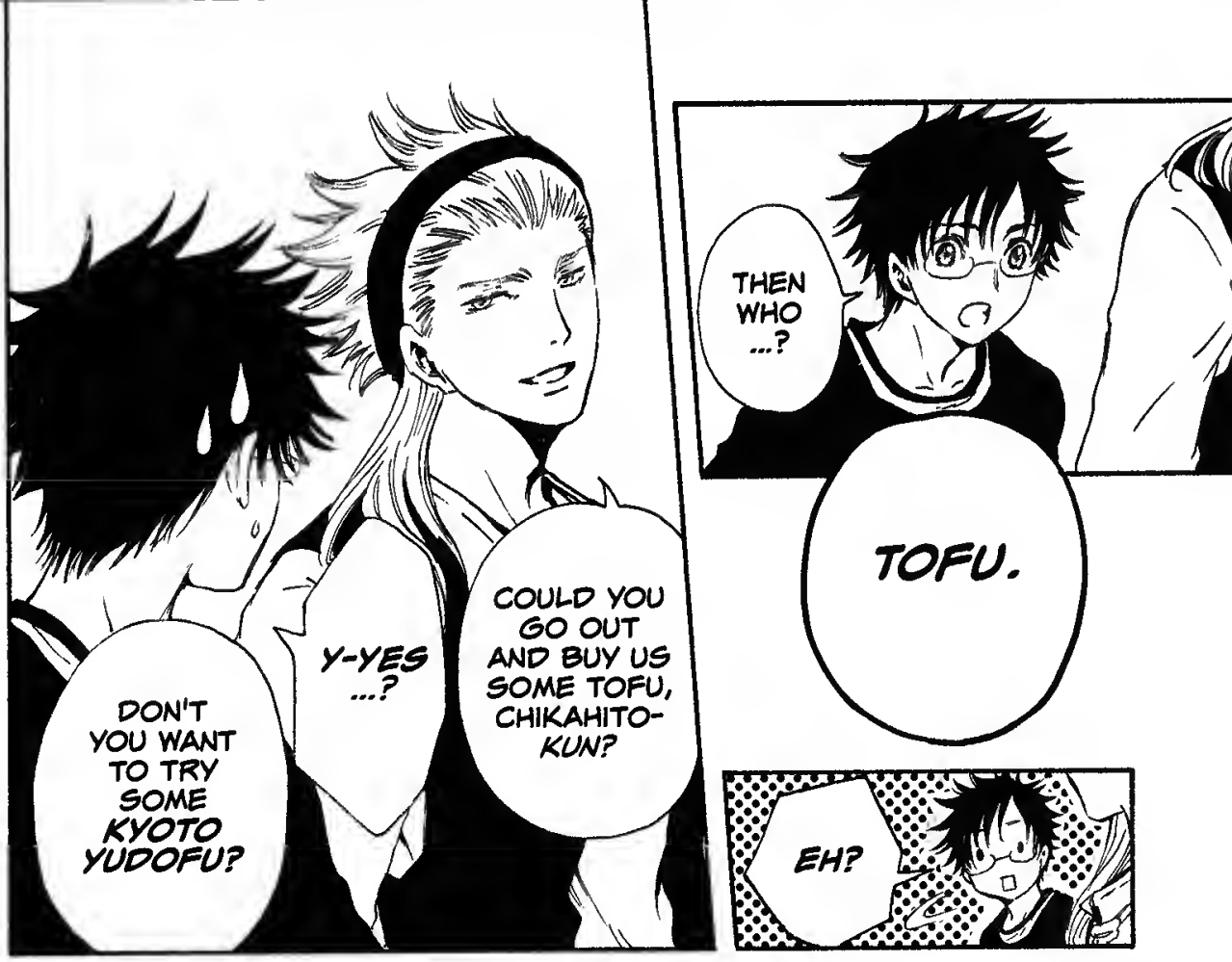
HWKK
...TO TALK ABOUT TOKUGAWA.
THAT AND...
SHUU
しゅう
THE ONI INFORMATION GRAPEVINE IS SO BOTHERSOME.
WHAT'S UP WITH TACHIBANA-SAN...?

AS LONG AS ONE'S POWER IS STRONG, AN ONI CAN READ MINDS AT ANY DISTANCE.
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ONE MAY GUARD AGAINST IT, BUT THAT ALSO TAKES GREAT POWER.
YES.
IN A WAY, IT'S EVEN MORE OF A PAIN THAN THE HUMAN WORLD!
YOU DON'T NEED E-MAIL OR A PHONE OR ANYTHING!
IS THAT RIGHT?
AND AMONG THE ONI MOST PROFICIENT AT READING MINDS...
...ARE THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO READ THE THOUGHTS OF OTHER ONI AND HUMAN MINDS AS WELL.
I GUESS THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF ONI-SAN.
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I HAVE GONE THROUGH MIKOTO TO FIND A METHOD TO ACQUIRE NOBUNAGA'S BODY AND DAIRO-KUTENMAOH.
USING MY ABILITIES!

PURR
THAT'S MY MIKOTO FOR YOU!
PURR
SO WHEN YOU SAY "GONE THROUGH," YOU MEAN THAT MIKOTO-SAMA DIDN'T FIND IT ALONE?
THAT...
MRROW!
PURR
PURR
PURR
...METHOD OF ACQUIRING THE WORLD'S STRONGEST ONI?
THAT!
THAT!
HANA! DO THAT!
NO.
IT WAS DONE BY AN ONI WHO HAS A BLOOD CONTRACT...
...WITH SOMEONE LIVING WITH TOKUGAWA.

YOU CAN'T ...
...REALLY CALL THAT "LIVING."
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN BETWEEN TOKUGAWA AND TACHI-BANA-SAN...
...A FEW MINUTES AGO?

IEYASU WAS A REAL WEASEL, BUT...
...THIS GUY IS--
...AND WAS ENSHRINED IN THAT AMAZING TOSHYOGU SHRINE.
HE RECEIVED HIS DEIFIED NAME FROM THE EMPEROR ...
A LOT HAS HAP-PENED.
SO ... NOW ... ...IEYASU IS...
NOT ON THIS EARTH.
IEYASU...
...BECAME TOSHYO-DAIGONGEN. CORRECT?
THE ONE WHO IS THE TOP TOKUGAWA-- OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY, THE ONE WITH THE THICKEST BLOOD.
ISN'T THAT SUPPOSED TO BE IEYASU?
NO, IT ISN'T!


DON'T YOU WANT TO TRY SOME KYOTO YUDOFU?
Y-YES ...?
COULD YOU GO OUT AND BUY US SOME TOFU, CHIKAHITO-KUN?
THEN WHO ...?
TOFU.
EH?

OKAY, I WILL.
OH...
SORRY TO IM-POSE.
THE STORE IS ABOUT TO CLOSE.
...BUT YOU MEAN NOW?
YES, I WANT TO...

TAKE CARE.

GOT IT!
GET THREE KINU AND THREE MOMEN ...
...AND TWO OF THE KUMI-AGE.

I'LL BE BACK SOON!
ぱた TMP ぱた TMP ぱた TMP ぱた
カラ TMP カラ TMP カラ TMP カラ
ヒソヒソ TCHINNG
THE CHILD ONLY JUST ARRIVED HERE.
THERE ARE THINGS THAT HE DOESN'T NEED TO HEAR.

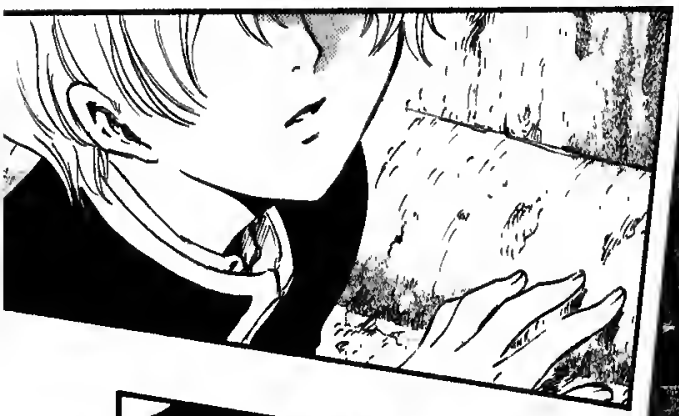
LIKE THE DETAILS REGARDING... IEMITSU TOKUGAWA.

...HANA.

I GUESS ...
... THERE ...
...WERE PROBABLY SOME THINGS THEY DIDN'T WANT ME TO HEAR.
I NEED THREE KINU...
...THREE MOMEN AND...
...TWO KUMIAGE.
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED ANY QUESTIONS AT ALL.
I GOT THE FEELING OF DANGER THERE.
BUT I'VE ONLY LIVED THERE ONE NIGHT, AFTER ALL.
I FEEL A LITTLE LEFT OUT.

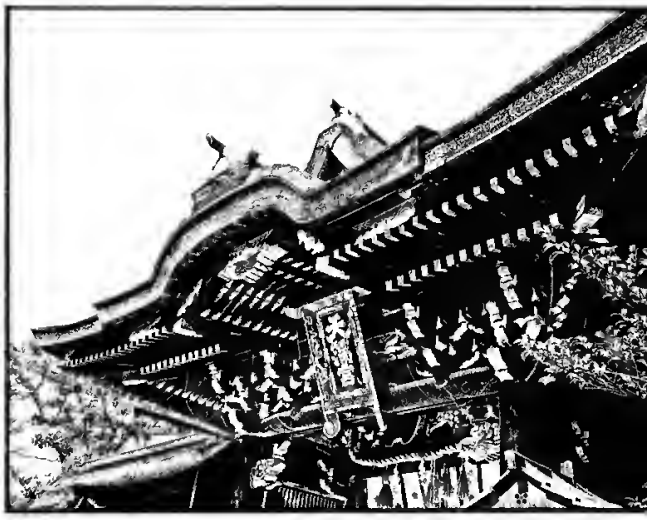
HM?!
HM?!

THMP
THMP
ARE YOU OKAY?

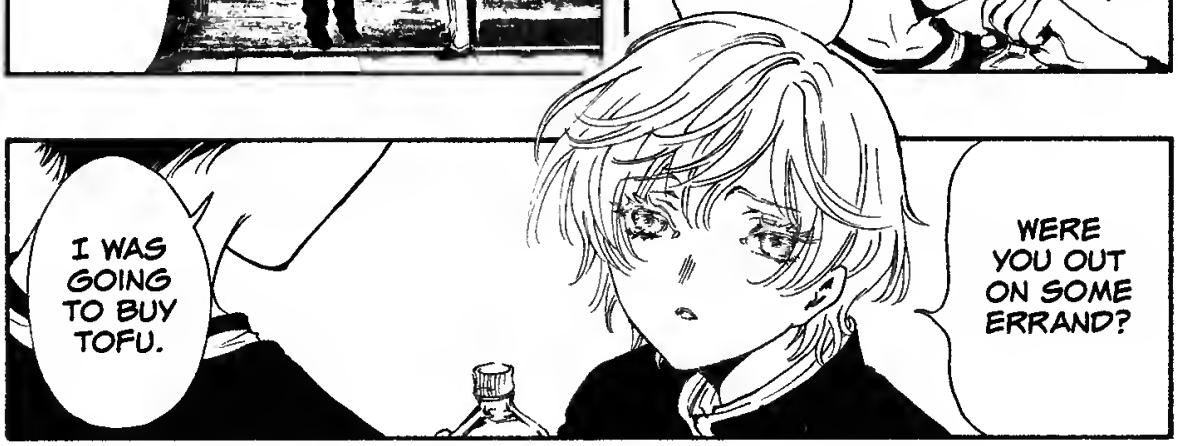


WHA --?
WHAT AN INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL-LOOKING YOUNG MAN!
IT'S LIKE HE SHINES!
I JUST ...
...FELT A DIZZY SPELL COME OVER ME.
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL AN AMBU-LANCE?
NO... NO...
I'LL BE FINE WITH JUST A BIT OF REST.
AND SOMEONE IS COMING FOR ME.

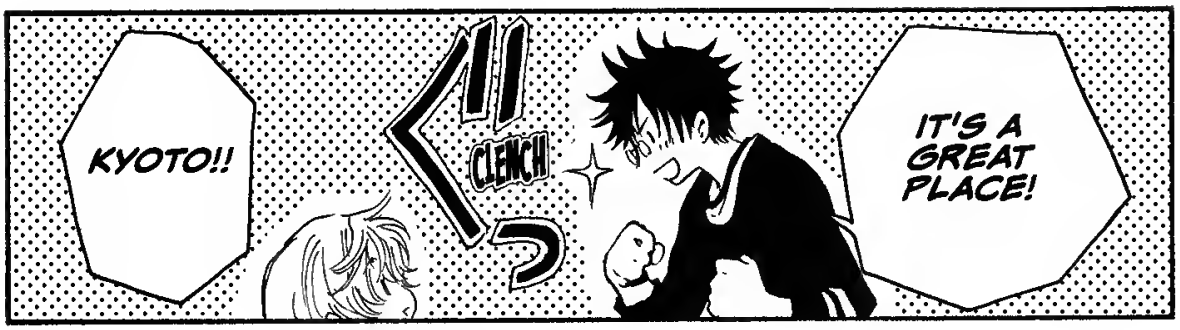
THEN AT THE VERY LEAST, LET ME CARRY YOU TO SOME-PLACE WITH A LITTLE MORE SHADE.
AH!
I'M SORRY!
THAT ISN'T TOO DIGNI-FIED, IS IT?
OKAY ...
...THEN I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND.
CAN YOU WALK?
YES.
THANK YOU... VERY MUCH.

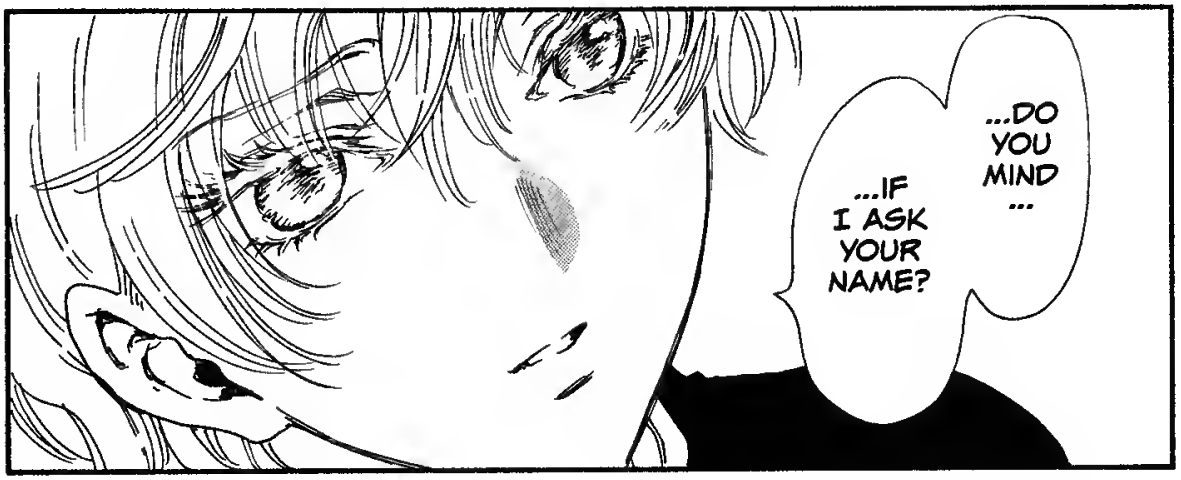


SIGN: TENMANGU SHRINE



TO HAVE A HOME IN SUCH A PLACE.
THAT'S WONDERFUL.
I FEEL THE SAME WAY!
BUT, WELL, THERE ARE UNEXPECTED TROUBLES HERE, TOO.
YEAH...
...BUT...
PANIC あわ
PANIC あわ
EH?
...THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE ARE REALLY NICE!


KYOTO!!
CLENCH
IT'S A GREAT PLACE!


...DO YOU MIND...
...IF I ASK YOUR NAME?

NO...
...THAT...
...REALLY...
...ISN'T...
...TRUE!
かあお
BLUSH
I'M CHIKAHITO TAKAMOTO.
SHINE
YOU'RE A VERY KIND PERSON ...
...CHIKAHITO-SAN.
SEEMS LIKE THE ONES I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET HAVE ARRIVED.
PREE PREE PREE PREE
I'M SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU.
BIP
DO YOU WANT ME TO WALK YOU TO THEM?
NO. I'LL BE FINE. TRULY.

CHIKA-HITO-SAN...?
THANK YOU.
DON'T OVERTAX YOUR-SELF!
WELL, THEN, TAKE CARE!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

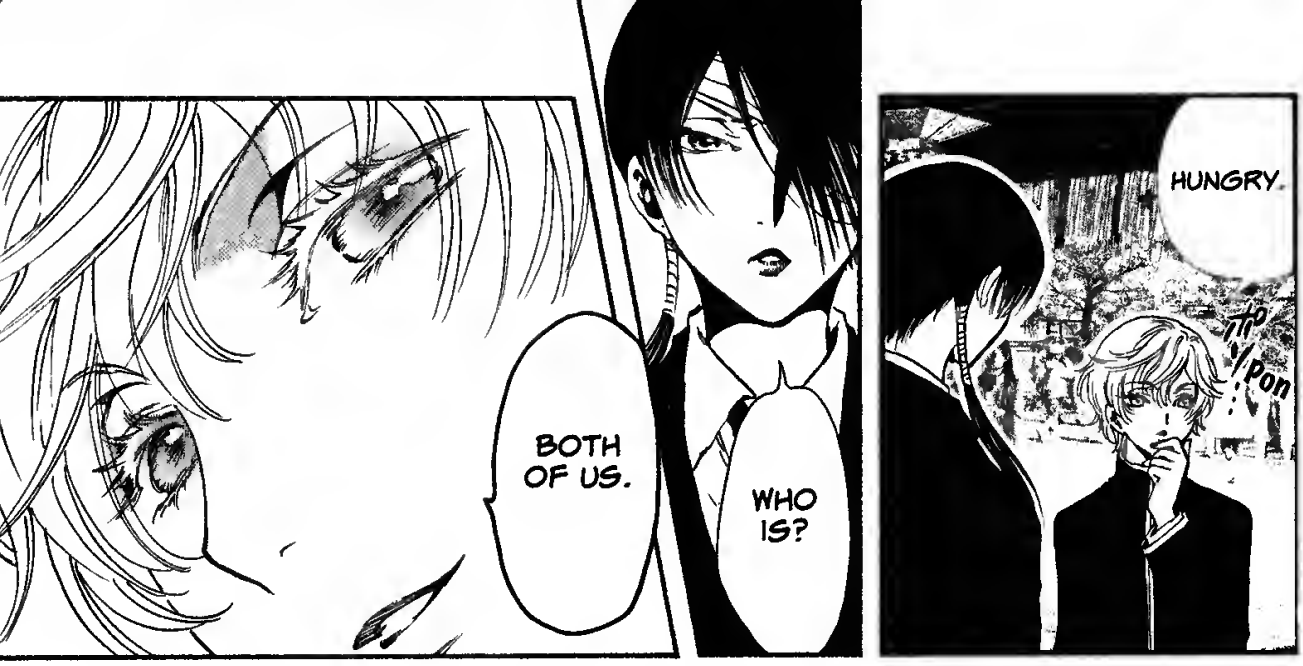
EH?
I NEVER IMAGINED THAT A GUY COULD LOOK SO... BEAUTIFUL!
THMP
BOY
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE LIVE HERE IN KYOTO!
WOW, THIS GUY AND HANA...
KTOK
IT'S AMAZ-ING!
KYOTO!

HOW ARE YOU FEELING...
...IEMITSU-SAMA?

THAT JOKE ...
...LACKS HUMOR IN MANY WAYS...
...JYUBEE.

TO BE PRECISE, I AM MITSU-YOSHI YAGYUU.
THAT NAME LACKS HUMOR, TOO.
I HAVE SAID SO MANY TIMES BEFORE.
AFTER GOING TO THE PAINS OF FEIGNING ILLNESS TO GET CLOSE TO HIM...
...WHAT WERE YOU ATTEMPT-ING TO DO?
DID IT LOOK LIKE I WAS AFTER SOME-THING?
HOW-EVER ...
...WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT HE LIVES AT THE URA-SHICHIKEN.
WE ALSO KNOW ...
...THAT HE WAS CALLED HERE BY THE ONE NAMED HANA.

I KNOW.
THAT'S WHY I CAME ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO.
TO A PLACE WITHIN SMELLING DISTANCE OF THE URA-SHICHIKEN.
STILL, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW CLOSE WE ARE. THEY SHOULDN'T NOTICE US.
OR RATHER ...
...IT'S MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT THEY'D BE HELPLESS EVEN IF THEY DID NOTICE US...
...DUE TO THE POWER OF MY BELOVED ONI.


WHO IS?
BOTH OF US.
HUNGRY.
Hp
Ip
Pon

TENKAI ...
...ENVELOP US.
BUT FIRST, WE HAD BETTER FEED BEFORE BEING FED.

ハハハ

...MITSUHA?

NOW...
...WHICH ONE WOULD GIVE YOU THE MOST ENTER-TAINMENT AS YOUR PREY...

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

I DIDN'T GET TO EAT DINNER WITH HANA!

HWSH
I'LL SLEEP ON THE SAME FUTON WITH HANA!!
SO THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE TO DO! GO BACK TO KAMI-SHICHIKEN AND STAY OVERNIGHT!
AH!

SHMMP

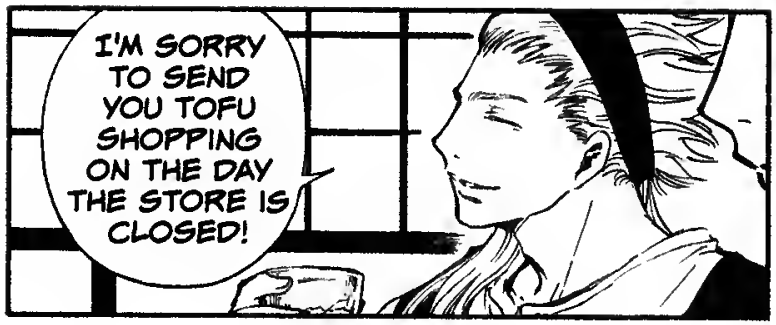
SINCE I GET ONLY ONE DAY OFF FROM SCHOOL, I HAVE TO LIVE IT TO THE FULLEST!
BUT I'VE ONLY HAD THREE HOURS WITH HANA!
THAT ISN'T NEARLY ENOUGH!

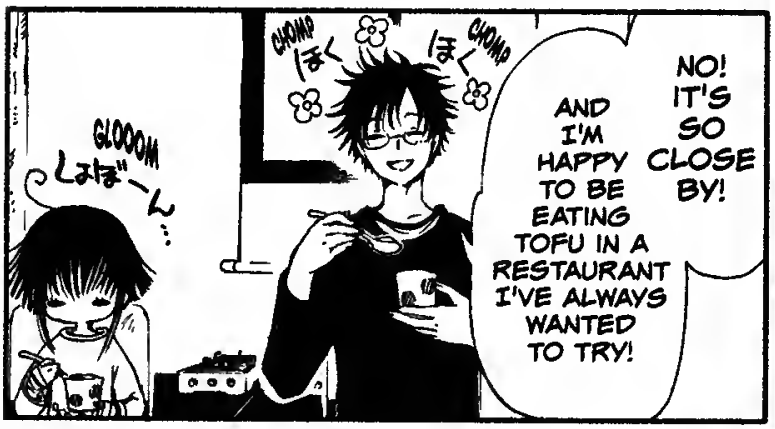
Masamune-sama!
THOOM
(3) (3) (3) HEH! HEH! HEH!
DON'T SMILE LIKE THAT WHILE YOU'RE ACTING LIKE YOU'RE GONNA MURDER ME!
IT IS A COMEDY ACT.
MAA-KUN NEVER CHANGES, DOES HE?

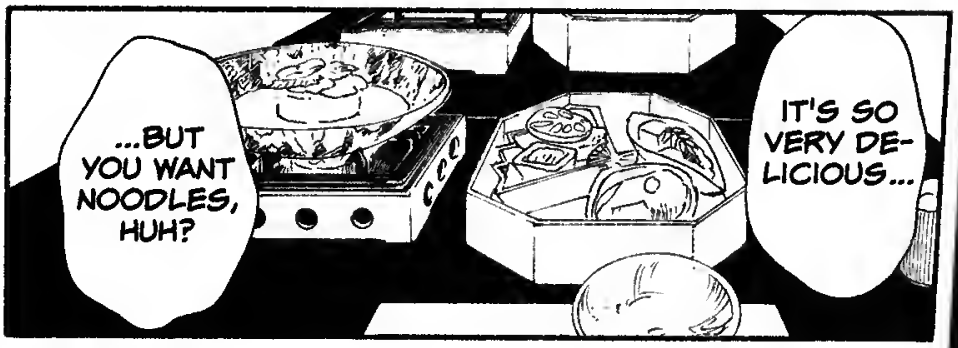
HIDETSUGU-KO, WILL YOU RETURN HOME AS WELL?
FLAP
FLAP
YES, THERE ARE THINGS I MUST RESEARCH.
TOKU-GAWA...
...YOU MEAN?

IN THE END...
...THE ONE WHO INHERITED THE TOKUGAWA ONI IS GONNA BE THE BIGGEST PAIN!
HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO CONCEPT OF THE POWER THAT THE ONI POSSESSES.
EVEN AMONG US...
...THERE ARE NONE WHO CAN DETERMINE THE POWER LIMITS OF ANOTHER ONI...
...EVEN IF THE DETAILS OF HOW THAT POWER IS NOURISHED ARE KNOWN.
IF IEMITSU-KO IS TAPPING INTO A SOURCE OF POWER IN HIS DESIRE TO FIND THE BODY OF NOBUNAGA AND CLAIM DAIRO-KUTENMAOH...
...THEN THIS WILL MEAN WAR...

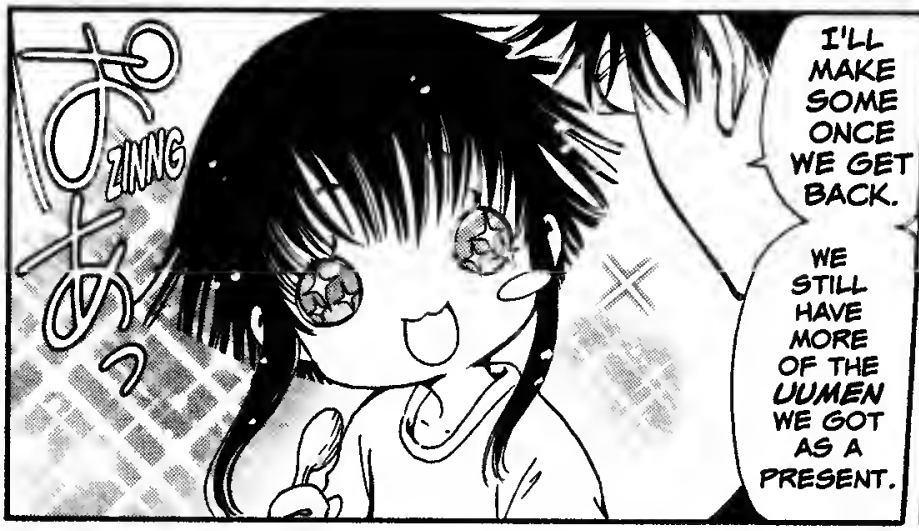
...OF THE VERY WORST KIND.
京
都
Kyoto Station


I'M SORRY TO SEND YOU TOFU SHOPPING ON THE DAY THE STORE IS CLOSED!


NO! IT'S SO CLOSE BY!
AND I'M HAPPY TO BE EATING TOFU IN A RESTAURANT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY!
CHOMP ぼく
CHOMP ぼく
GLOOOM しょぼーん...


IT'S SO VERY DELICIOUS...
...BUT YOU WANT NOODLES, HUH?

HANA-SAN?


I'LL MAKE SOME ONCE WE GET BACK.
WE STILL HAVE MORE OF THE UUMEN WE GOT AS A PRESENT.
ZINNG
ぴかぁ

THANK YOU!
CHIKA-HITO!
N--
NO PROB-LEM!
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL FLUS-TERED FOR, FREE-LOADER?!
EH?
EHH?!
CHIKA-HITO-KUN?
NO ...
THAT'S TOO LONG. DO YOU MIND IF I CALL YOU "CHIKA-CHAN" ...?
N-NO, THAT'S FINE!

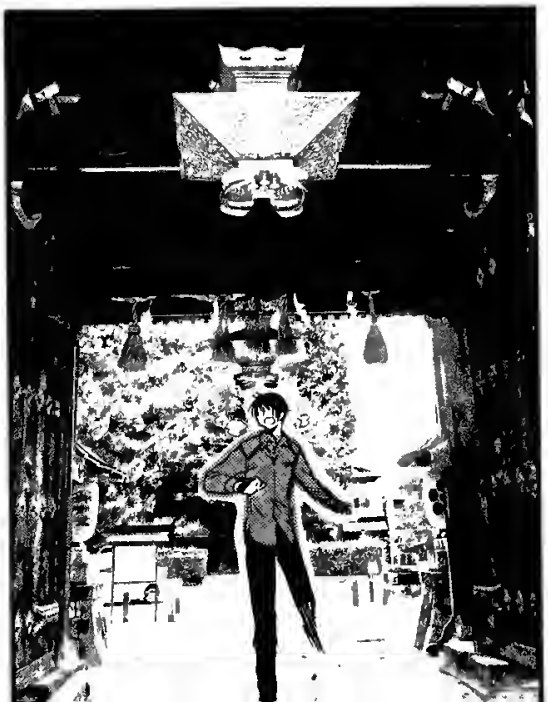
UWAA
HUH?
NO, I--
I MEAN--
I'M NOT--OR RATHER... UM...UM...
CHIKA-CHAN? IS HANA'S FACE "YOUR TYPE" ...?
I... I DO THINK HANA IS BEAUTI-FUL... ... BUT--
NO, I DON'T MEAN "BUT"-- BUT-- AAAH!
WHAT I MEAN IS...
PSHH
...
CHIKA-CHAN IS A FUNNY GUY.
THIS TIME, HE WEARS AN IDIOT'S FACE.
AFTER THIS, NOO-DLES! NOO-DLES!

I JUST SAW THIS INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL ONE AT KITANO TENMANGU!
GASP!
THERE ARE SO MANY PRETTY PEOPLE IN KYOTO!
NOD NOD
IS THAT RIGHT?
DID SHE SEDUCE YOU?
NO, IT WASN'T LIKE THAT!
AND IT WAS A BOY!
HE WAS SO BEAUTI-FUL-- IT FELT KIND OF UNREAL!
HE WAS IN A SCHOOL UNIFORM WITHOUT BUTTONS...
...AND HE WAS THIN AND PALE... AND HIS HAIR WAS A VERY LIGHT BROWN COLOR...
OH, RIGHT!
HE HAD INCREDIBLY LONG EYE-LASHES.
AND HIS EYES!

I BELIEVE THEY WERE ACTUALLY PURPLE!

!!
TMP
THMP
THUMP
YOU STAY HERE WITH CHIKA-CHAN...
...HANA!
YEAH!

...HANA WILL PROTECT YOU, CHIKAHITO.
DID ...
DID I JUST SAY SOMETHING THAT COULD CAUSE TROUBLE ?
NO...
...BUT ...

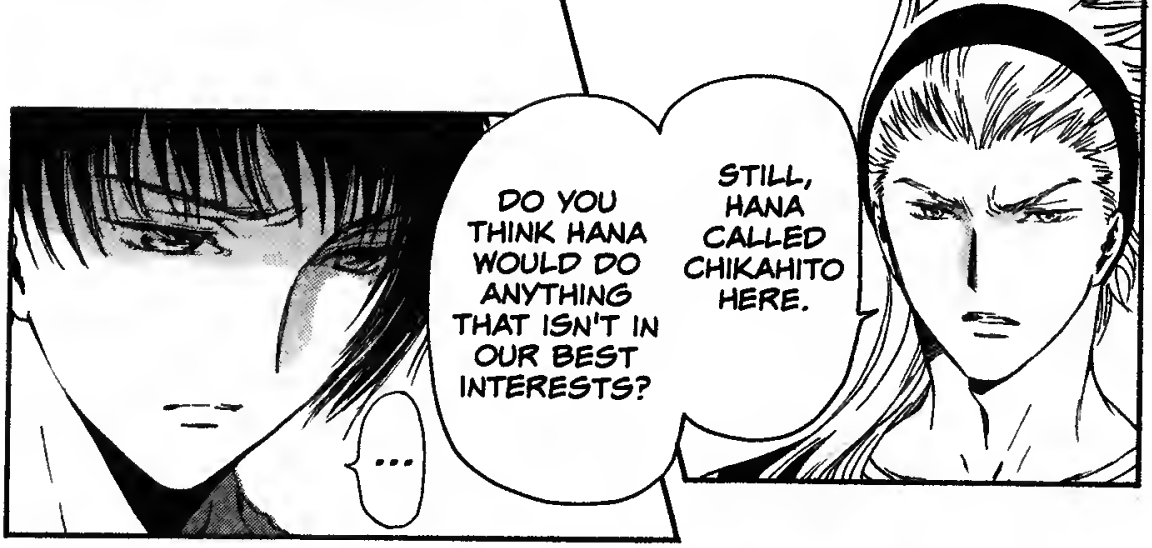


WHOOSH
HUFF!
WHOOSH
HUFF!
HUFF!
IEMITSU!
IEMITSU!!

SUG!!!
HWOO
STOP IT.
THUD

I ASKED A TOUR-BUS DRIVER PARKED OVER BY THE SHRINE'S ENTRANCE.
HE SAID THAT FIVE TOURISTS WENT IN, BUT THEY DIDN'T COME BACK.
I ASSUME THEY WERE EATEN...
...BY TOKUGAWA'S ONI.

WHERE'S IEMITSU ?!
IT'S JUST LIKE BEFORE. WE CAN'T SEEM TO GET A HANDLE ON HIS MOVE-MENTS.
EVEN THOUGH HE CAME THIS CLOSE.
IT COULD BE ONE OF THE POWERS OF HIS ONI.
NOT HERE ANY-MORE.
THEN HOW DID HE KNOW...
...ABOUT OUR FREE-LOADER ?!
MIKOTO MADE THE DETER-MINATION THAT CHIKA-CHAN WAS "NOT."
WELL, WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?!
CLENCH
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE WITH YOUR TOSHIMI SIGHT?


STILL, HANA CALLED CHIKAHITO HERE.
DO YOU THINK HANA WOULD DO ANYTHING THAT ISN'T IN OUR BEST INTERESTS?
...

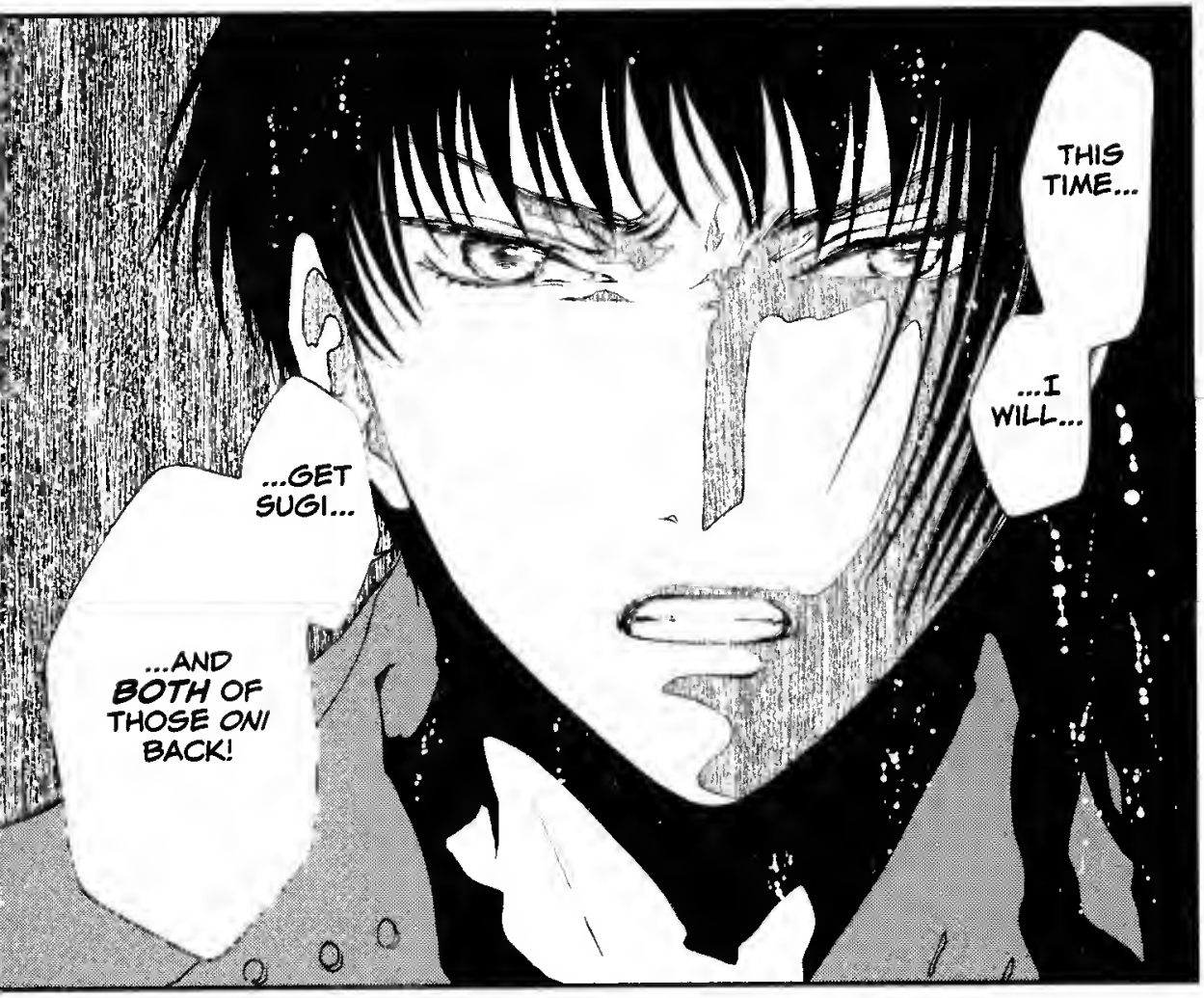
A METHOD WAS SUDDENLY FOUND TO OBTAIN THAT MYSTERIOUS DAIROKUTEN-MAOH--THAT WAS THE FIRST ODD THING TO HAPPEN.
THE WHOLE SITUATION SHIFTED RIGHT AFTER CHIKAHITO CAME TO OUR URA-SHICHIKEN.

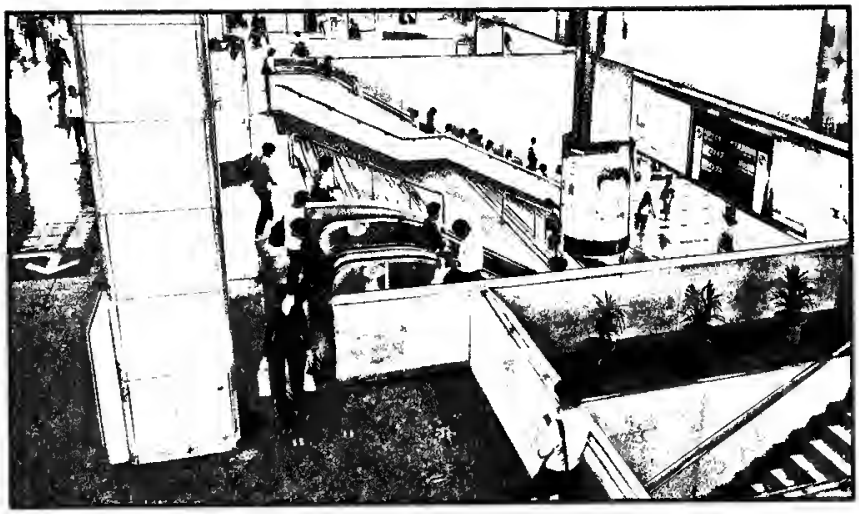
THAT WAS...
...THROUGH THE POWER OF SUGI'S ONI, WASN'T IT?

...AND HE'D DO SOMETHING TO SUGI TO GET IT?!
YOU'RE SAYING THAT IEMITSU IS AFTER THAT METHOD ...
I WISH YOU WOULDN'T JUMP TO THOSE KINDS OF CONCLU-SIONS ALL THE TIME.
OF ALL THE ONI IN EXISTENCE NOW, THE ONLY ONE WITH THE CLAIRVOYANT POWER TO DO THAT WOULD BE THE ONE YOUR TWIN SISTER, SUGI-HIME, CONTROLS.
I DOUBT THERE CAN BE ANY OTHER METHOD.
FWHP
FWPP

WHAT WE HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON RIGHT NOW IS FINDING A WAY TO GET SUGI-HIME BACK FROM TOKUGAWA, RIGHT?
...
RIGHT.
THAT'S WHY I'M IN URA-SHICHIKEN RIGHT NOW.
SHE KNEW THAT YOU WERE WORKING FOR HIDETSUGU, THE ONE WITH A BLOOD CONTRACT WITH MIKOTO.
...KNOWING ALL THE OTHER ONI WOULD HEAR ABOUT NOBUNAGA AND DAIRO-KUTENMAOH.
THAT'S THE REASON SUGI-HIME SENT THE MESSAGE TO MIKOTO...

IF THE METHOD OF FINDING NOBUNAGA AND DAIRO-KUTENMAOH IS...
...EXACTLY AS SUGI-*HIME* SAYS IT IS...
...THEN THOSE WITH *ONI* WILL BE EVEN MORE ***ACTIVE*** THAN USUAL.
AND IF IEMITSU REALLY IS AFTER THAT AS WELL...
...WE'LL GET OUR CHANCE.


THIS TIME...
...I WILL...
...GET SUGI...
...AND BOTH OF THOSE ONI BACK!



阪急のりば
Hankyu Rwy.

WHOOOAA!!
THIS IS REALLY AMAZING!
OSAKA!

IT LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF THINGS THAT WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION HAVE FINALLY BEEN COMPLETED.
DO YOU COME TO OSAKA OFTEN?
WHEN WORK DEMANDS IT.
BUT NOT REALLY ALL THAT OFTEN, NO.
MOST OF THE WORK IN OSAKA IS TAKEN CARE OF BY THE PEOPLE IN OSAKA'S HANA MACHI.

NOODLES! パスタ
SPEAKING OF "ONE SORT OR ANOTHER"...
...LAST WEEK AFTER WE WENT TO EAT TOFU, SAKURA-SAN AND TACHIBANA-SAN RETURNED HOME, BUT...
SO THERE'S A GROUP OF PEOPLE JUST LIKE US IN THE URA-SHICHIKEN?
OF COURSE THERE IS.
NO PLACE IS WITHOUT ITS TROUBLES...
...OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER.
...THEY WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHERE THEY'D GONE OFF TO EARLIER IN THE DAY.
BUT...
...THEY WON'T TELL ME A THING.
I WONDER IF THAT'S RELATED.
ON THE SAME DAY, THERE WERE NEWS REPORTS THAT SEVERAL TOURISTS WENT MISSING FROM THE KITANO TENMANGU SHRINE.

ARE YOU IN PAIN?
TWIRL
CHIKA-HITO ...

SHFF
N--
NO! I'M JUST FINE!
DO YOU HURT ANY-WHERE?
EH?!
DON'T GET ALL SPACY ON US.
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY!
GRAB
CUT

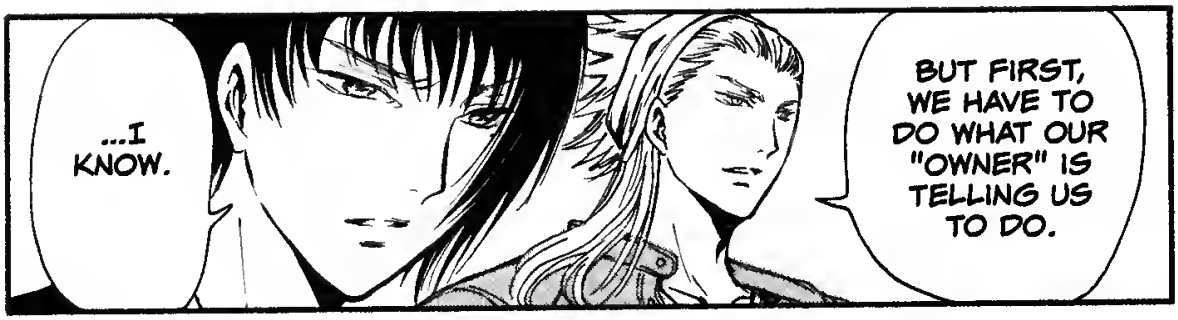
BUT IF YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT CATCHES YOUR EYE OR NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL, TELL US ABOUT IT.
WE WON'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
IF YOU GET LOST, I HAVE NO DESIRE TO FIND YOU, BUT--
DON'T WORRY. DON'T WORRY.
BWAAH

AND IF YOU SEE THAT BOY WITH PURPLE EYES...
...TELL US IMMEDIATELY.
GOT IT?
OH...
OKAY.
WAIT...
HANA-SAN!!
THE SCENT OF UDON!
おうどんのにおい～
WAFT
WAFT
ふらふら～
YANK
I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE TO EAT NOODLES, BUT---
...JUST HOLD OUT A BIT LONGER, HANA.

HURRY!! LET'S GO!!
UWAAHH!
WE ALREADY HAVE A FEW GOOD PLACES TO CHECK OUT, BUT ONLY WHEN OUR BUSINESS IS OVER.
NOOOO-DLES ...
NOO-DLES !!
SLUMP

I DON'T KNOW HOW IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT CHIKA-CHAN CAN TELL US WHAT MOVES IEMITSU HAS MADE.
THAT'S FOR SURE.

AND IF WE MAKE OUR MOVES, HE'LL MAKE MOVES, TOO.

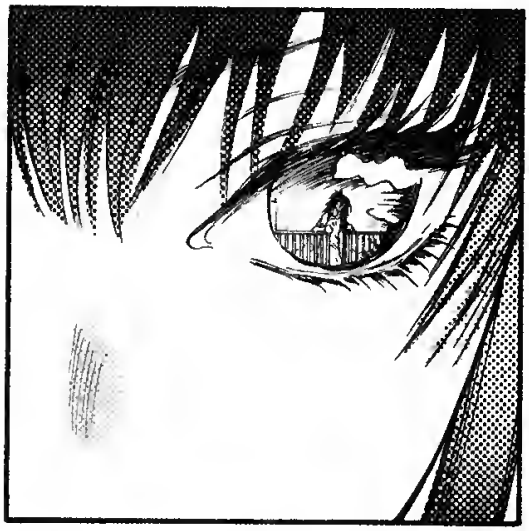

...I KNOW.
BUT FIRST, WE HAVE TO DO WHAT OUR "OWNER" IS TELLING US TO DO.

SO...
...SHALL WE GET GOING?
WE'RE OFF TO FIND SOMEONE WHO'LL BRING TROUBLE...
...BUT A DIFFERENT SORT OF TROUBLE THAN WHAT IEMITSU OFFERS.
玉造駅
たまつくり Tamatsukuri

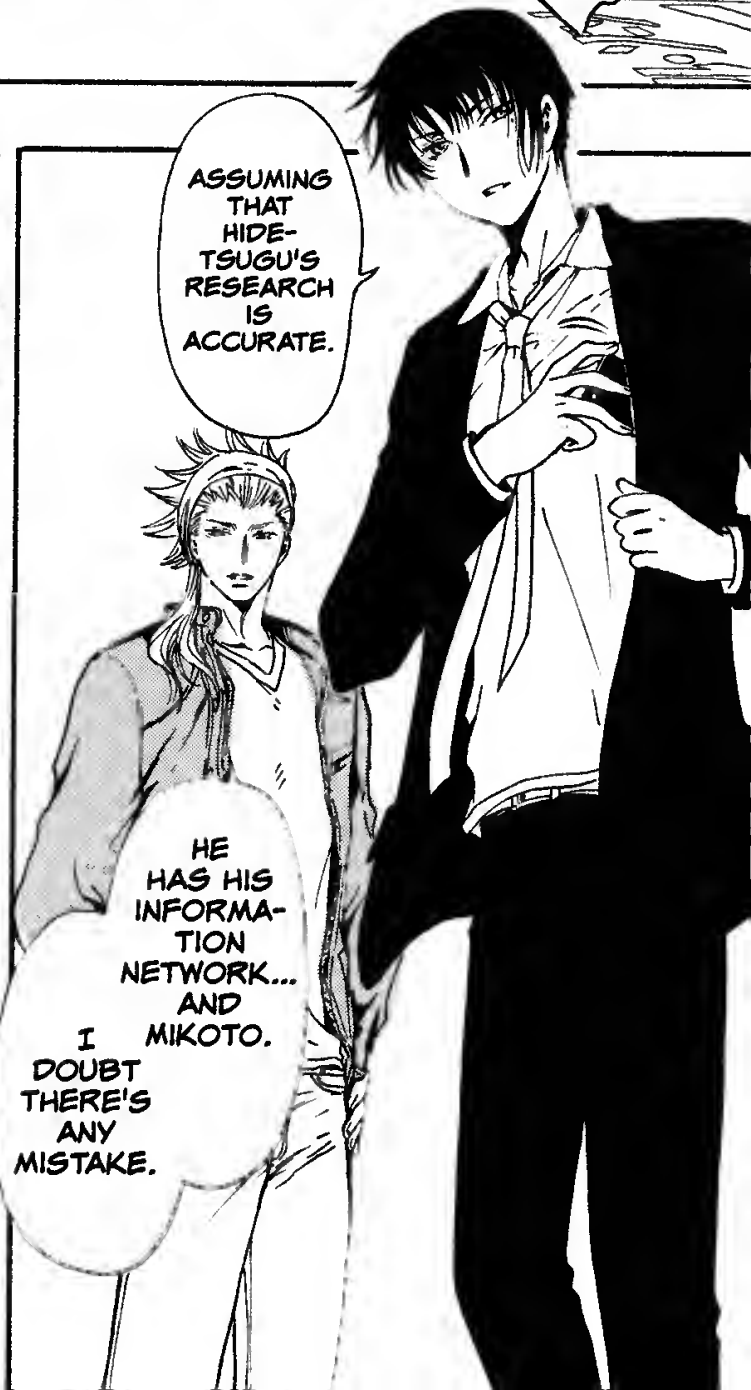
玉造駅
BETWEEN TAMATSU-KURI STATION, WHERE WE GOT OFF THE TRAIN...
...AND THE PLACE CALLED TSURU-HASHI.
BIP
SO...WE HAVE AN ERRAND TO COMPLETE AROUND HERE?
A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN.
ROCK CREATURES WHO MOVE AROUND OR SNAKE THINGS COMING OUT OF THE GROUND?
ARE WE GOING TO FIGHT WEIRD THINGS LIKE WE DID BEFORE?
BIP
NO.
HIDETSUGU COULD HAVE COME HIMSELF!
WE'RE JUST MEETING SOME-ONE.
EASY, SEE?

...I GUESS THAT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO EXPLAIN THINGS.
WELL ...
THAT IS IF THE SITUATION IS CONDUCIVE TO ANY SORT OF EXPLANATION.
THMP
THMP
SITUA-TION? WHAT SORT OF--
We're here.

THE PERSON WE CAME TO MEET IS HERE?
A N--
A NURSERY SCHOOL?



HANA-SAN?

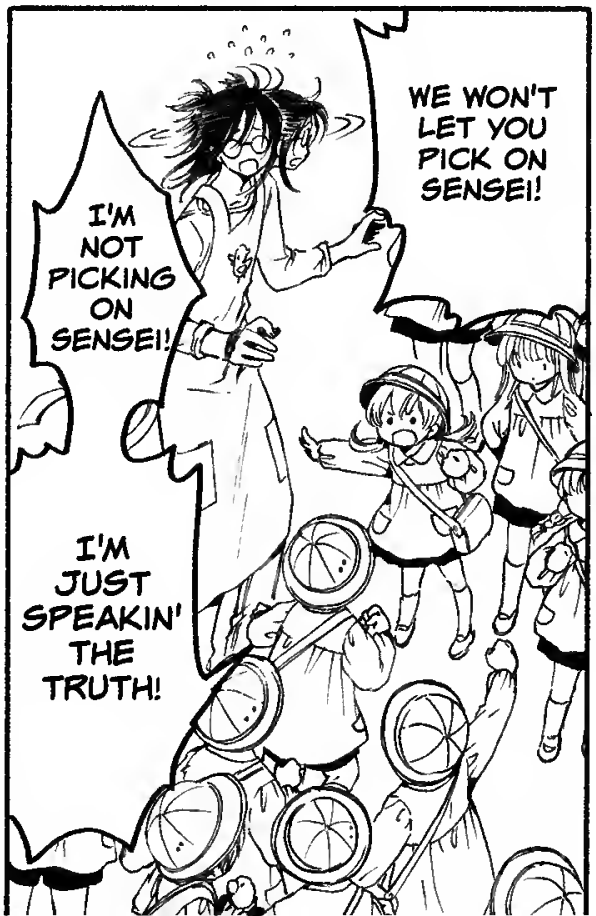

ASSUMING THAT HIDE-TSUGU'S RESEARCH IS ACCURATE.
HE HAS HIS INFORMA-TION NETWORK... AND MIKOTO.
I DOUBT THERE'S ANY MISTAKE.

SENSEI!
YAAY!!
KREEK
YOU FELL DOWN A WHOLE LOT TODAY!
AND YOU BUMPED YOUR NOSE, TOO!
THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU WEAR GLASSES!
THEY LOOK STUPID!
WITHOUT GLASSES, SENSEI WOULD FALL EVEN MORE!
YOU DUMB BOY!
GRAAA!
ぎゃあ
GRAAA!
ぎゃあ
YOU'RE THE DUMB ONE!
YOU DUMB, DUMB GIRL!

SENSEI, YOU STAY OUTTA THIS!!
YOU MUSTN'T FIGHT!
O--
OKAY.

Y-YOU DUM-MY!
FWISH
IT AIN'T LIKE THAT!
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME! YOU'RE SAYING THAT SO SENSEI WILL PAY MORE ATTENTION TO YOU!

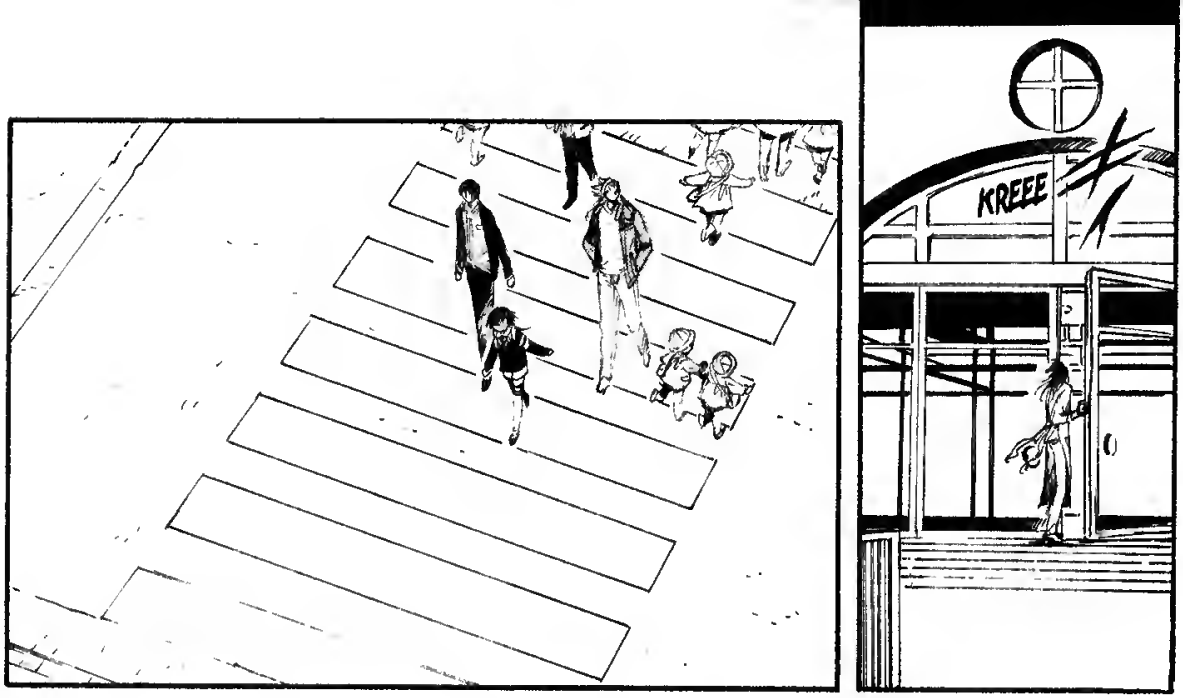
I SAID I WASN'T PICK-ING ON ANYBODY, OKAY?!
YOU BOYS ARE SO CHILD-ISH!


I'M NOT PICKING ON SENSEI!
WE WON'T LET YOU PICK ON SENSEI!
I'M JUST SPEAKIN' THE TRUTH!

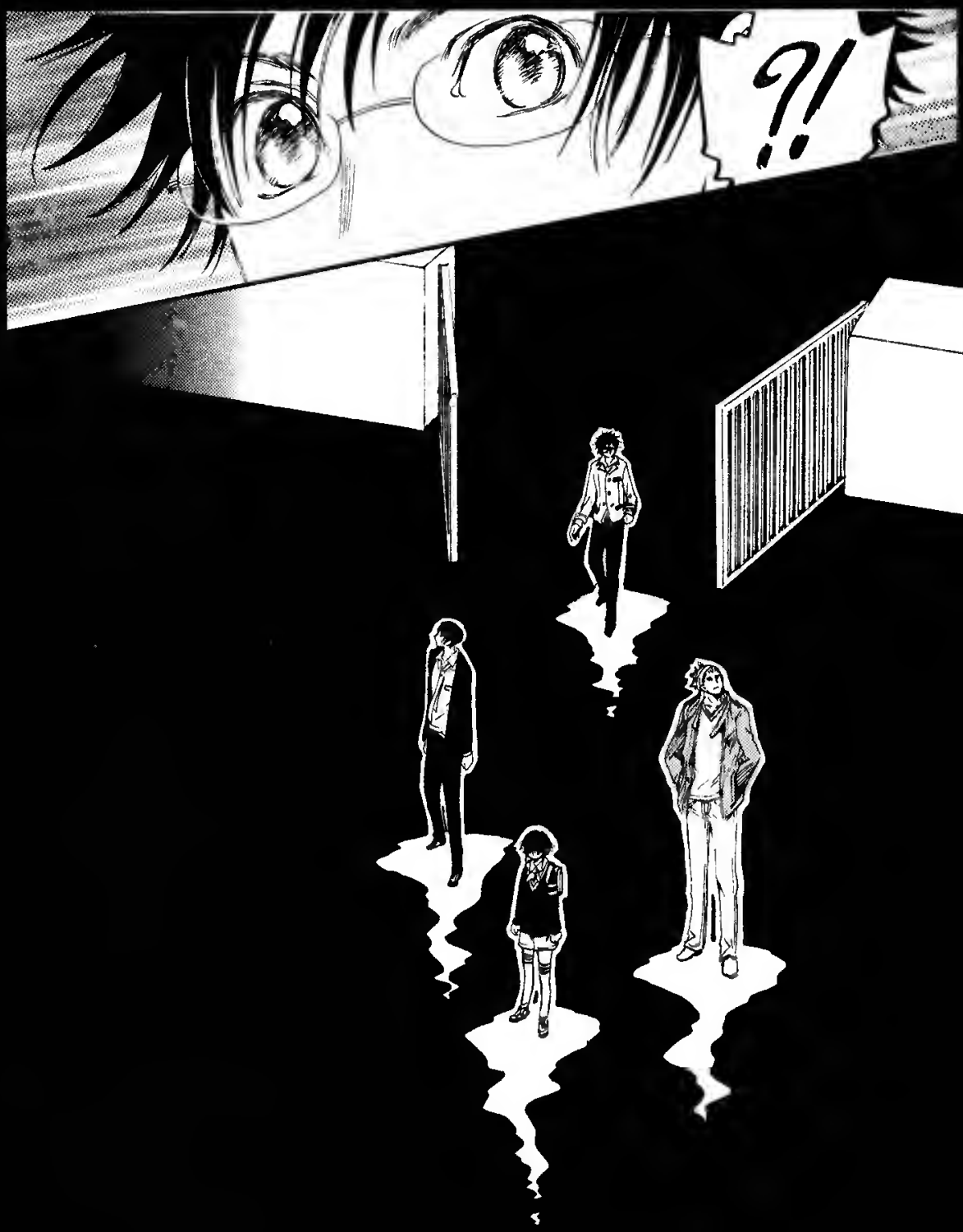
...MUSTN'T FIGHT!
WHOOSH
Y-YOU REALLY ...
WE THOUGHT WE TOLD YOU TO STAY OUT OF THIS!
OKAY.
ごくり GULP
THIS PERSON IS EVEN MORE OF A PUSHOVER THAN I AM!!

FLIP
WELL, IF YOU EVER MESS WITH SENSEI, YOU'RE HEARING FROM ME, GOT IT?!
TODAY, I'M GONNA LET YOU GET AWAY WITH WHAT YOU SAID!
YOU THINK A JOKE LIKE THAT QUALIFIES YOU FOR "YOSHIMOTO SHIKIGEKI" ?!
SO THIS IS A TEACHER THAT THE KIDS REALLY LOVE.
HEH HEH!!
SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
GOODBYE, SENSEI!

THAT'S THE ONE?
YES.
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY HOME, OKAY?
YES, SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
EH?


KREEE

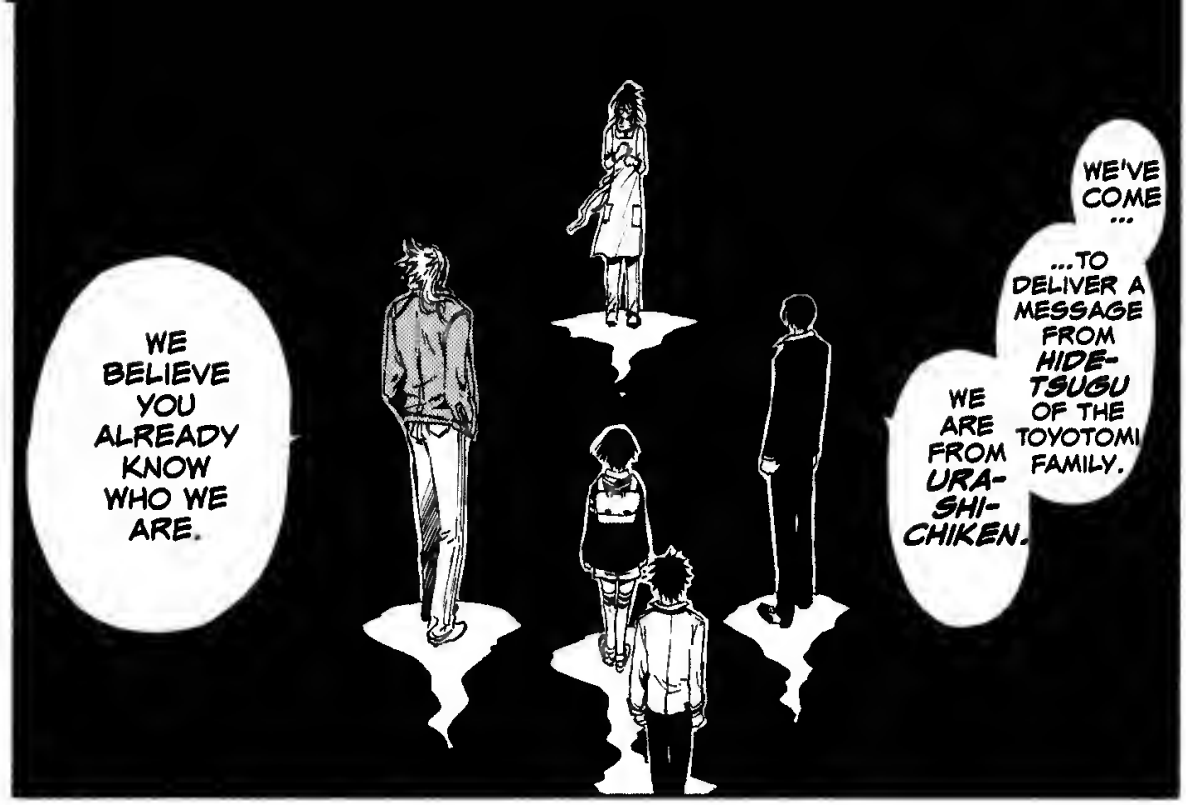
FWSSH



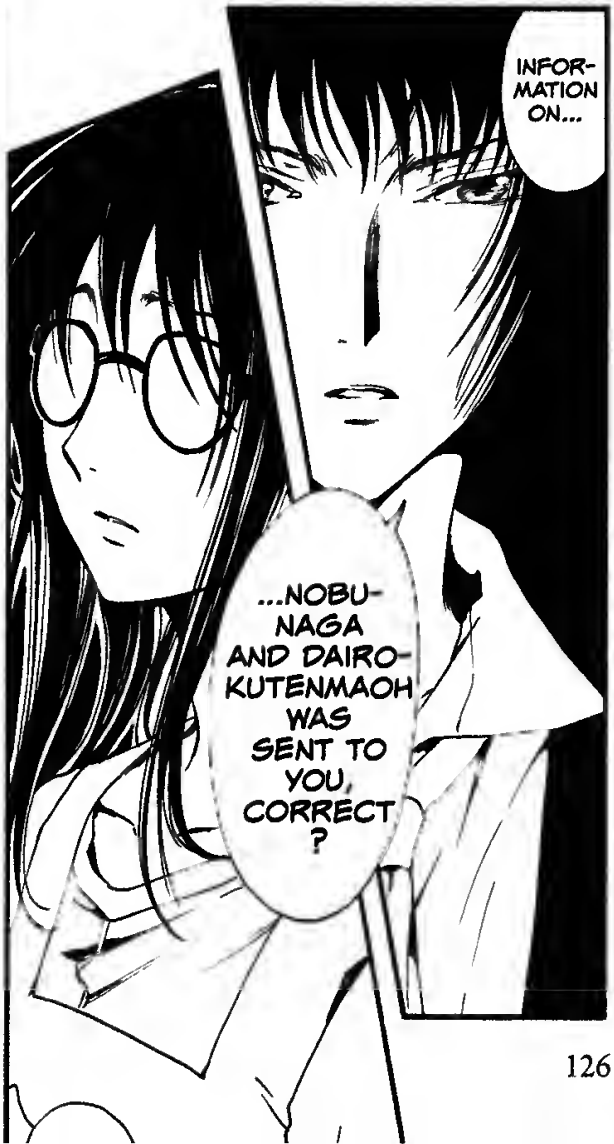
EVERY-BODY HERE?
YEP! WE'VE BEEN NOTICED
EVERY-BODY WE'VE BEEN TOLD ABOUT.

ARE WE ABOUT TO MEET SOME-THING... SCARY AGAIN...?
JUST LIKE THE RUMOR SAID.
SOME-BODY ELSE.
AND THE ONE ENVEL-OPING US?

UH...
UM...
DO YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH ME?
HUH?
H--


WE'VE COME ...
...TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM HIDETSUGU OF THE TOYOTOMI FAMILY.
WE ARE FROM URASHICHIKEN.
WE BELIEVE YOU ALREADY KNOW WHO WE ARE.

THAT AND...
...THE METHOD OF OBTAINING THEM, AS WELL?


INFORMATION ON...
...NOBUNAGA AND DAIROKUTENMAOH WAS SENT TO YOU, CORRECT?

THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW, MANY OF THOSE TO WHOM THE ONI SHOW ALLEGIANCE...
...HAVE THE ABILITY TO OBTAIN NOBUNAGA'S CORPSE AND ACCESS THE WORLD'S GREATEST ONI.
HIDE-TSUGU AND HIS ONI...
...HAVE COM-MUNICATED TO US--HIS FOLLOWERS-- EXACTLY WHAT HE MEANS BY THE WORD "ALLEGIANCE."

WITH HIS DEFINITION, HE HAS ENLISTED LIKE-MINDED ONI AND THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM THEY HAVE CONTRACTS, AND A GROWING GROUP NOW LOOKS TO HIDETSUGU AS THEIR LEADER.
BUT IEMITSU'S DEFINITION IS DIFFER-ENT.
CLENCH
HE KILLS THOSE WITH ONI AND STEALS THEIR ONI.
HIS CENTERS AROUND DEATH AND THEFT.
HE'S TRYING TO GROW MORE POWERFUL, WITH MORE ONI. HE WANTS DAIROKUTEN-MAOH.
AND HE'LL KILL AGAIN.

THE PREY THAT IEMITSU'S CON-TRACTED ONI FEEDS UPON...
...IS HUMAN.
!!
YOU CAN'T SAY THESE THINGS DON'T CONCERN YOU, CAN YOU...

...YUKIMURA SANADA?

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

I... I AM SHIGE NOBU.
AH, SORRY ABOUT THAT.
S-- SOME-HOW...
THAT OTHER NAME IS EASIER TO RECOG-NIZE.
THAT PERSON SEEMS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT NOW!
SO?

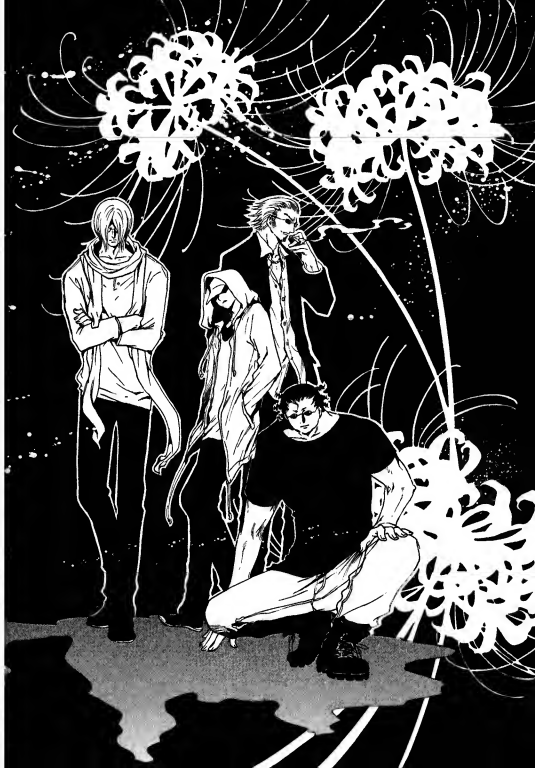
HIDE-TSUGU DOESN'T WANT TO START ANY TROUBLE WITH YOU.
HE WANTS YOU TO JOIN OUR TOYOTOMI CLAN.
AND IF THAT ISN'T POSSIBLE, HE ASKS THAT YOU NOT JOIN FORCES WITH IEMITSU.

...WE'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF SUFFERING THE SAME FATE AS BEFORE, WHEN YOU ALLIED YOURSELF WITH THE TOYOTOMI CLAN, BUT—
WITH PAST EVENTS IN MIND ...
THAT WAS MY DECISION.
I REGRET NOTHING— NOT ONE BIT OF WHAT I DID.
THAT'S RIGHT ...
...WHEN YUKIMURA SANADA DEFENDED THE CASTLE DURING THE SUMMER SIEGE OF OSAKA...

GLANCE
GLANCE
SHIVER
...HE DIED WHILE ...
SWEEP

WELL, THAT FIGURES.
HUH?!
ZHM
I UNDER-STAND YOUR MESSAGE.
ZHM

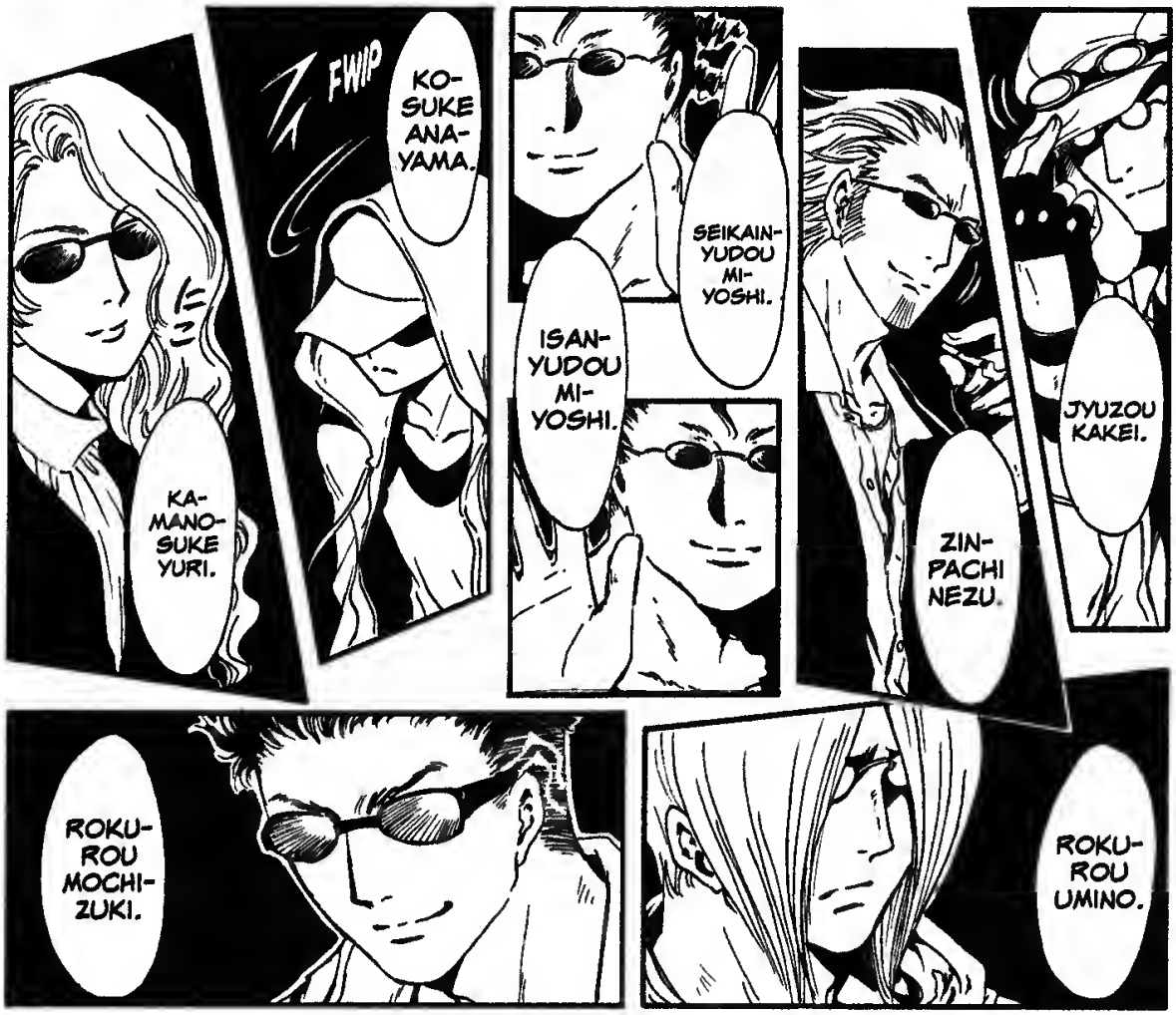
HOW-EVER ...
...IF SOMEONE WANTS ME TO OBEY HIS ORDERS...
...WORDS ALONE WILL NOT SUFFICE.
BUT YOU KNEW THAT ALREADY, DIDN'T YOU?
WAAH!!



I COUNT ...
...TEN OF THEM!
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN ...
YOU'RE KID-DING!
THESE ARE SANADA'S TEN BRAVES!

ON THE MONEY!
...
AH!
SO THIS IS HOW YOU WANT TO PLAY IT.
GLARE
YEP!
WE FIGURED YOU GUYS WERE COMING...
...SO WE GATHERED THE WHOLE GANG AND WAITED FOR YOU HERE.

WHAT? YOU'RE ASHAMED TO BE THE ONLY ONE INTRO-DUCED?
THEN I'LL INTRO-DUCE EVERY-ONE...
KEEP MY NAME OUT OF THIS.
...WOULD BE SAIZOU!
THAT...
WHO ENVEL-OPED US?


KA-MANO-SUKE YURI.
FWIP
KO-SUKE ANA-YAMA.
ISAN-YUDOU MI-YOSHI.
SEIKAIN-YUDOU MI-YOSHI.
ZIN-PACHI NEZU.
JYUZOU KAKEI.
ROKU-ROU MOCHI-ZUKI.
ROKU-ROU UMINO.

AND ...
...THERE'S ME...
SASUKE SARUTOBI.
ON THE MONEY AGAIN!
FWAAH
EH?
SOME OF THE MORE WELL-KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE TEN BRAVES MAY HAVE ACTUALLY EXISTED, BUT MOST WERE MADE UP FOR THE TACHIKAWA BUNKO POCKET-BOOK STORIES...
HUH? えっ-?!
YEAH.
THAT TENDS TO HAPPEN.
BUT YOU KNOW ...
...ANY WRITTEN HISTORY IS MAINLY SOME-ONE'S SUB-JECTIVE VIEW.
PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE ARE SOMETIMES LEFT OUT, AND PEOPLE ARE ADDED WHO WERE NEVER THERE.
THAT'S PRETTY COMMON.
RIGHT ...
AND IT'S ES-PECIALLY TRUE FOR PEOPLE LIKE US.
...CHIKA-HITO TAKAMOTO-KUN?

KOOM
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?! IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE A NINJA?!
HEH!
HA HA HA!
TEE HEE!
KEH HAH!
YOU REALLY ARE A FUNNY KID!
JUST LIKE THE INVESTIGATION SAID!
...
INVESTIGATION?!
調べた?!
EH?!
AND YOU'RE A HISTORY BUFF...
...AND YOU LOVE KYOTO...
FWOOOO
ふおおおおお
...AND YOU'RE A GOOD COOK.
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
WHOA... THERE WERE NINJA INVESTIGATING ME...
YOU'RE THE REAL DEAL, CHIKA-CHAN!
WHOOOAAA
しいいいいいい
WHY'S THE FREELOADER GETTING SO EMOTIONAL AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
CLAP
ぱちぱちぱち
I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU!

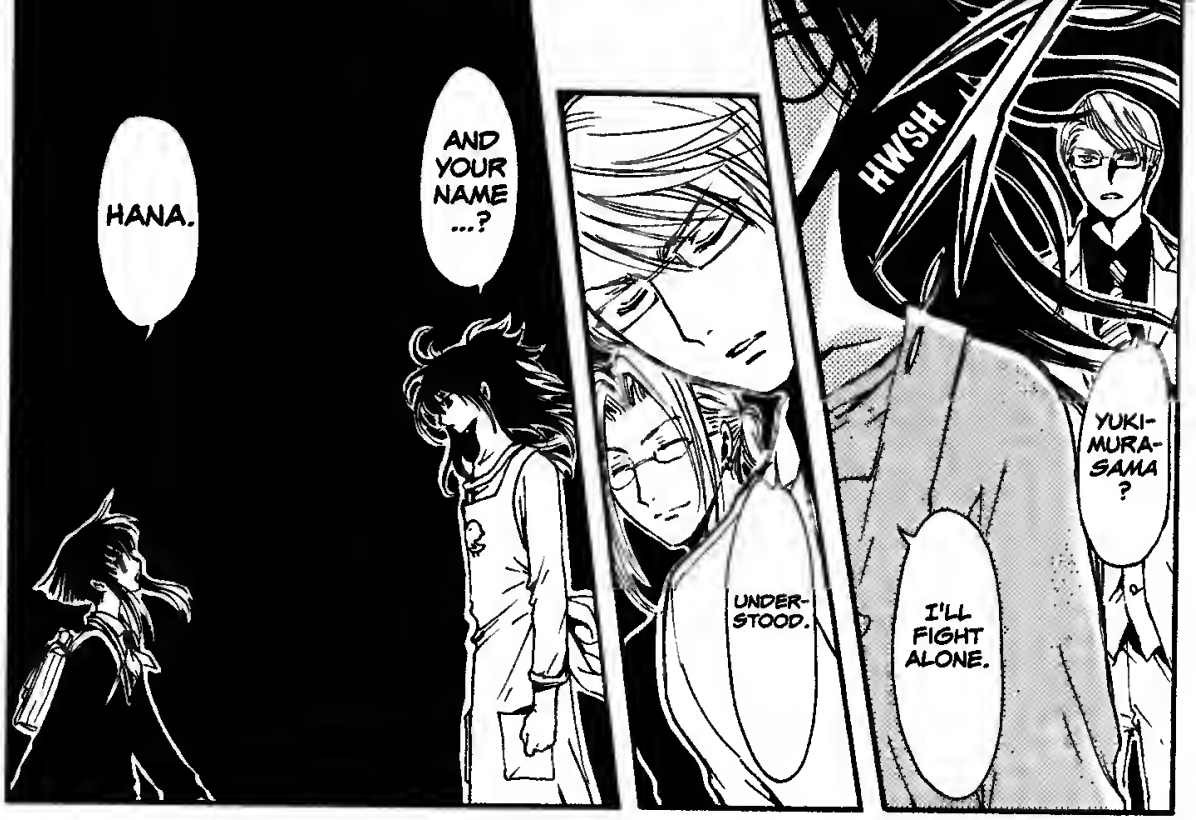
IT DOESN'T DO ANY HARM.
BUT NOW ...
YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY TALK TOO MUCH...
...IF YOU WERE GOING TO REJECT THEM...
...I DON'T THINK THESE PEOPLE WOULD STILL BE ALLOWED TO STAND ON THIS GROUND.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT ...
...YUKI-MURA-SAMA?

YUKIMURA-SAMA IS A PRIVATE NAME THAT ONLY THE TEN BRAVES WERE ALLOWED TO USE.
BUT ONE SHARP-EARED WRITER OVERHEARD IT, AND THAT'S HOW THE NAME SPREAD.
STILL, WE WERE USED TO THE NAME, SO IT DIDN'T BOTHER US.
NOT "SHIGE NOBU-SAN" ...?
IT IS A CUTE NAME, AFTER ALL.
YUKI-MURA-SAMA.
NOD
NOD
BUT CAN WE TELL ALL OF THEM NOW--
--BE-CAUSE THEY'RE ABOUT TO VANISH OFF THIS EARTH COM-PLETELY?
--BE-CAUSE YOU INTEND TO BECOME ALLIES WITH THESE PEOPLE ...
...OR--

NO MATTER WHICH CHOICE ...
WSHRK
...WE WILL CARRY OUT THE WILL OF YUKIMURA-SAMA.
THESE PEOPLE...
...ARE KIND OF SCARY!

IT'S AS IF SOME-ONE WERE STANDING IN FRONT OF ME, EXUDING STRENGTH. JUST SCARY IN A GENERAL WAY.
IT'S NOT LIKE I FEEL CREEPED OUT.
BUT ...
...THE SCARIEST ONE OF THEM IS...

SANADA ...
...IN THIS LIFE-TIME ...
...HAS NO INTENTION OF FOLLOWING ANY WEAK MASTERS.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
...YOU WANT TO FIGHT?
THEN ...
...YOUR CHOICE IS...?
TEN AGAINST FOUR?!
HEY!
YOU'RE COUNTING YOURSELF INTO THE FIGHT. GOOD GOING!
WHAT AM I SAYING?!
THUMB
THUMB


HANA.
AND YOUR NAME ...?
UNDER-STOOD.
HWSH
YUKI-MURA-SAMA ?
I'LL FIGHT ALONE.

SO...
...THAT'S THE NAME YOU'VE TAKEN?
TACHI-BANA AND SAKURA GAVE IT TO ME.
ARE YOU IN THE URA-SHICHIKEN OF YOUR OWN WILL?

YEP.
I WAITED.
HUH. DID YOU?

I WILL NOT FIGHT HANA.
THE TWO TREES.
EITHER ONE OF YOU WILL DO.

AS I'M SURE YOU'VE ALL RESEARCHED AND DISCOVERED, TACHIBANA'S MAIN JOB IS USING HIS TOSHIMI SIGHT.
HEY!
THEN IT SHOULD BE ME, RIGHT?
SO... UNLESS THE GENERAL OF THE SANADA MARU CASTLE IS DIS-SATISFIED WITH ME...?
NO.
I AM NOT DIS-SATISFIED.
NOT AS ONE WHO HAS KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR TRUE NAME.

KAKOOM
HA FT
SKRRRRCH
HOW... HOW CAN THERE BE SO MUCH POWER IN SUCH A PUNY BODY?
KAFF!
SAKURA-SAN!!

GATCH
HYUU
WHAP
HYUUUN
WHAP

KRAK

YOU ALSO HAVE SUCH A HEAVY ... KICK.
THP
WHAT A PROBLEM. YOU LEAVE NO OPENINGS.
YOU DO NOT SEEM TO BE SOMEONE ...
... OFTEN TROUBLED BY PROBLEMS.
WELL, IT'S A BIG PROBLEM.
YOU COULD MAKE A PERSON FORGET TO HOLD BACK.

HYUUU
FWUMP
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

KOOOM
YUKIMURA-SAMA!!
ONE SHOT GOT THROUGH.
THD

...YOU ARE COR-RECT.
THEN I MUST FORGET TO HOLD BACK AS WELL.
BUH ...
BUT ...
...DIDN'T SAKURA-SAN DOMINATE THE FIGHT?
IF HE WAS ONLY UP AGAINST THE SANADA THAT WE'VE SEEN SO FAR, YES...
IS SAKURA SAYING THAT IF WE DON'T FINISH THIS OFF IN ONE SHOT, THERE'S NO CHANCE LEFT OF VICTORY?
...BUT...

VWNN
NN

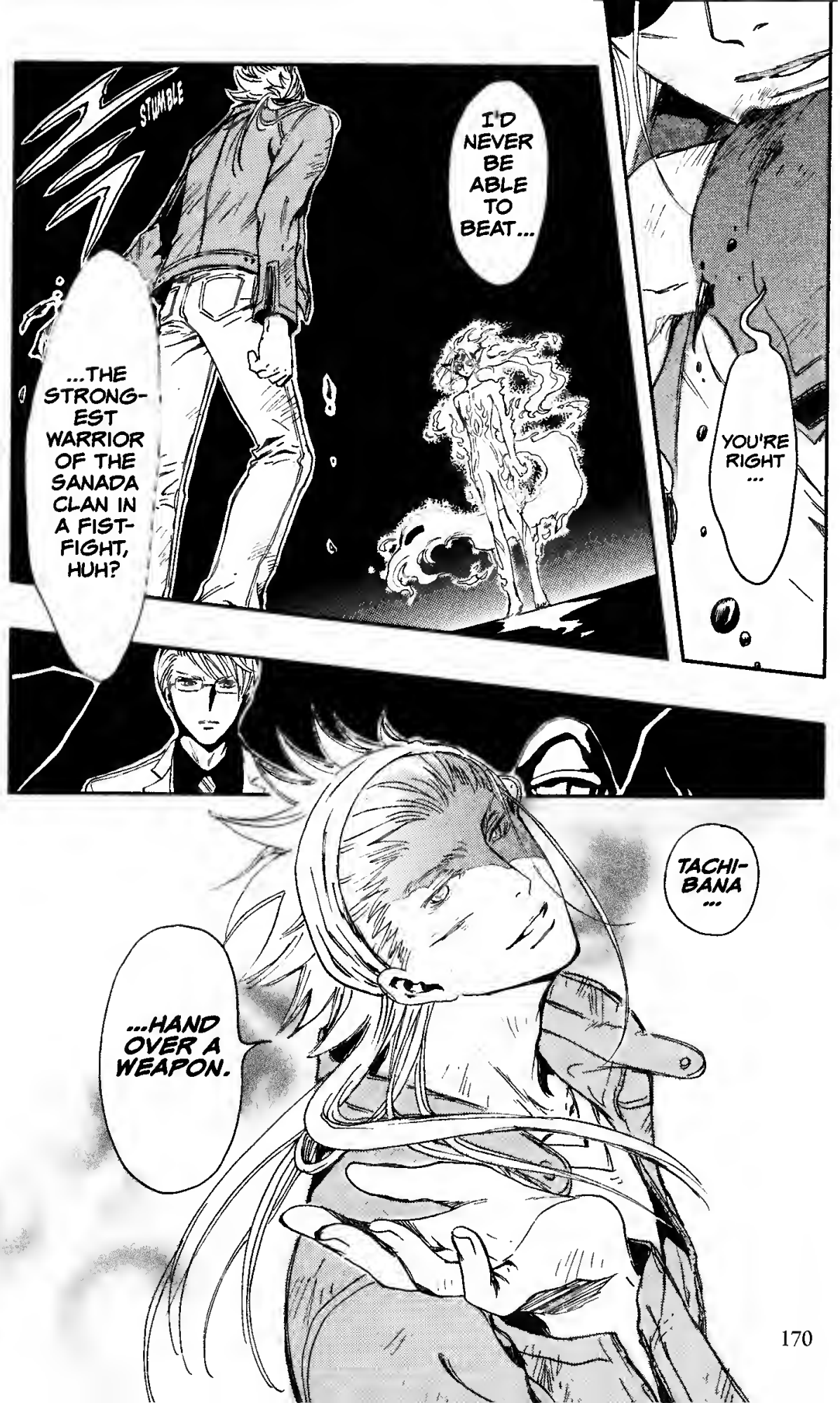
WE HAVEN'T SEEN THIS IN SO LONG!!

A T-TRANS-FORMATION ?!
THE ONI HAS BEEN CALLED DOWN.
THE ONI WHO'S IN A BLOOD CONTRACT WITH SANADA. THEY CAN COMBINE TO BECOME ONE BEING.
THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN COMBINE WITH THEIR ONI ARE THOSE WHO HAVE INHERITED ONE.
... ENGETSU ...
EH?

FWOO
HYUU
HRRG!
KOOM

...THE FACT THAT OUR MASTER CALLED ENGETSU DOWN...
HOW-EVER ...
THAT'S OUR YUKI-MURA-SAMA!
THEN HANA KNEW ITS NAME.
THE URA-SHI-CHIKEN.
...TELLS US JUST HOW POWER-FUL THOSE RETAINERS ARE.
THAT ONI IS CALLED ENGETSU?
HOW ...?

KATHOOM
SAKURA-SAN!
KOFF!
KOFF!
CLENCH
THAT IDIOT!
WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO FOR YOU TO GET SO HURT YOU CAN'T EVEN TALK?!
KOFF!


STUMBLE
I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO BEAT...
YOU'RE RIGHT ...
...THE STRONGEST WARRIOR OF THE SANADA CLAN IN A FIST-FIGHT, HUH?
TACHIBANA ...
...HAND OVER A WEAPON.

YOU'RE SHADOW, THOUGH! HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO WIELD A WEAPON OF LIGHT?
SANADA'S ONI IS SHADOW, TOO.
SO THE ONLY THING THAT'LL WORK IS A WEAPON OF LIGHT, SEE?
BUT IF IT TURNS OUT LIKE THE LAST TIME...
?!
HAND IT OVER.
22MM

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

GATE 7 VOLUME 2 TRANSLATION NOTES

COMPILED BY WILLIAM FLANAGAN WITH ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM CLAMP

General notes on Kyoto: *Kyoto was one of the few large Japanese population centers to escape the extremely destructive American firebombing of World War II that burned historical sites in nearly every other Japanese city close to Kyoto's size. The determination not to bomb Kyoto was a conscious decision by American civilian and military leadership in deference to Kyoto's many historical buildings and landmarks. Although some other historical sites in more rural locations—such as Ise or Izumo—were also spared, cities that were formerly rich in history (such as Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka, and Kobe—not to mention Hiroshima and Nagasaki) have all had to rebuild replicas of their ancient historic landmarks. Kyoto is the one large Japanese city where history is still very much in evidence.*

Page 7: As introduced last volume, *myoho* is a Japanese word that means "arcane," "mystery," or "clever method." *Ooibana* is a combination of two kanji. The first is *ooi*, which means "covering"—as in a bonnet or mantle—and the second is *hana* (the *h* changing to a *b* according to linguistic rules), which means "flower."

Page 17: *Suizan* is a combination of two kanji. The first is *sui*, which means "water," and the second is *zan*, which means "to cut" or "to behead."

Page 26: A *hikuidori* appears to fight Hana. This creature's name is made up of three kanji—*hi*, which means "fire"; *kui*, which means "to eat"; and *tori*, which means "bird." (The *t* sound changes to the *d* sound according to linguistic rules.) The meaning comes out to "fire-eating bird."

Page 36: Masamune Date was one of the great generals of the Warring States period. As a young man, a bout of smallpox left him with an infected eye, which he plucked out himself. His missing eye and some bloodthirsty tactics led to his nickname of the One-Eyed Dragon. Some early near defeats seasoned Masamune and led to his becoming one of the most respected generals of the era. He was implicated in the same

scandal that led to the death of Hidetsugu Toyotomi, and the following exile led to his abandoning the Toyotomi clan in favor of an alliance with Ieyasu Tokugawa.

Page 37, bellflower seal: The Akechi clan was a cadet branch of the Toki clan, a powerful clan that were movers and shakers in Japan from the Kamakura period (1185–1333) through the Edo period (1603–1868). The Toki clan used an image of the five-petaled bellflower as their seal.

Page 44: Kojyuuroh Katakura is the more well-known name for Kagetsuna Katakura, who was a page for Masamune Date's father when he was younger. He became Masamune's personal retainer and strategist, faithfully serving Masamune. When Kagetsuna became head of the Katakura family, he took on the traditional name of all Katakura family heads, Kojyuuroh.

Page 47: "But it needed much more sacred energy than that." When referring to "sacred energy," the Japanese text used the kanji for "god" and the Chinese concept of "chi" (ki in Japanese), concerning energy flow—so this would be a special kind of chi.

Page 53: *Uumen* is a kind of *somen* noodle that originated in Kojyuuroh Katakura's traditional home in the town of Shiraishi in Miyagi Prefecture.

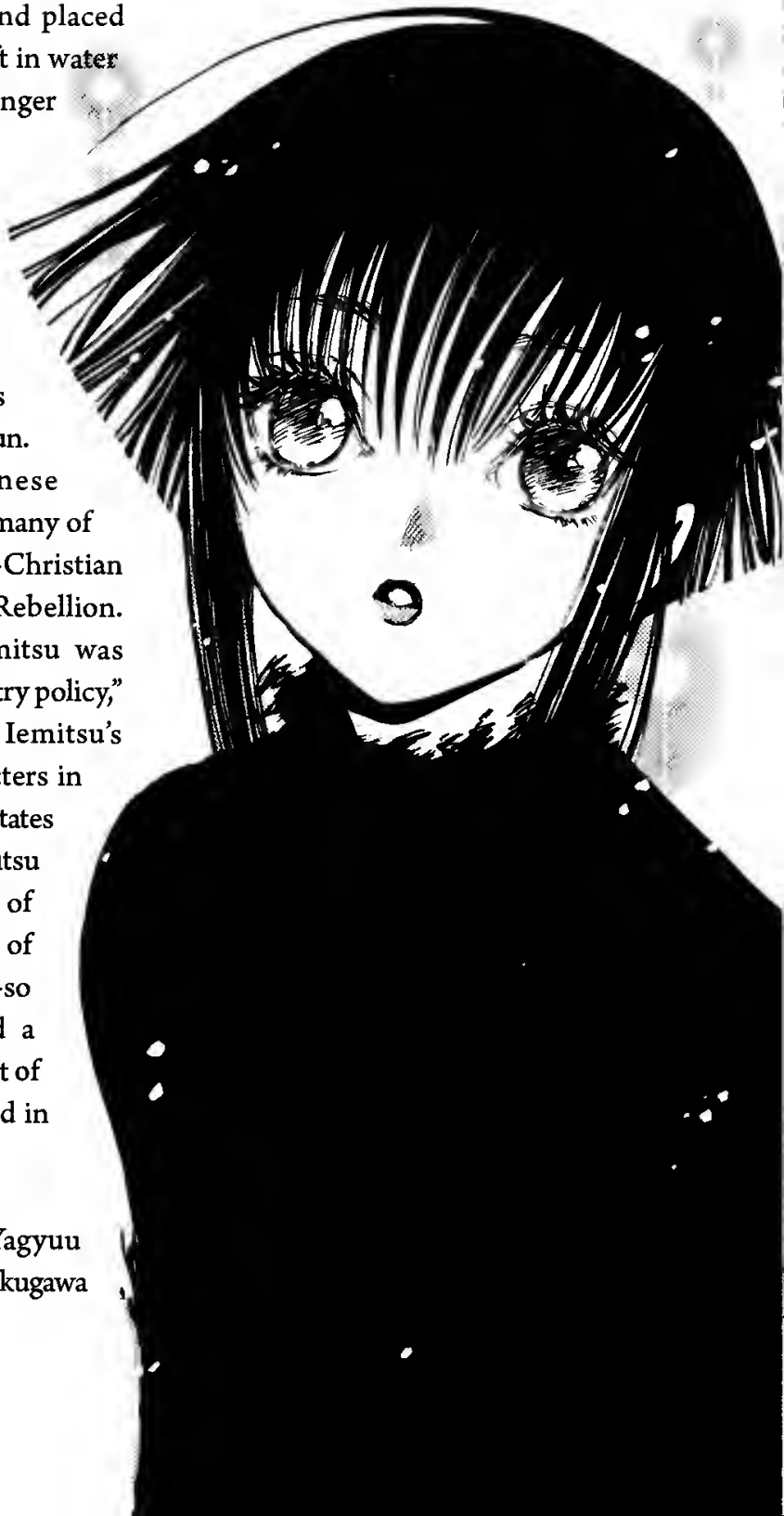
Page 66: *Yudofu* is tofu served in a ceramic bowl filled with hot water. The tofu is taken out with chopsticks, dipped in a small bowl filled with dipping sauce, and eaten. A high percentage of what makes up tofu is water, and the underground springs of Kyoto are famous for having water perfect for making tofu. *Momen* means "cotton," and this kind of tofu is named that way because a rough cotton cloth holds the tofu while excess water drains off through the cloth. *Kinu* means "silk," but no silk is used in making that tofu. It is simply called that because it tastes as smooth as silk. *Kumiage* tofu is tofu that's

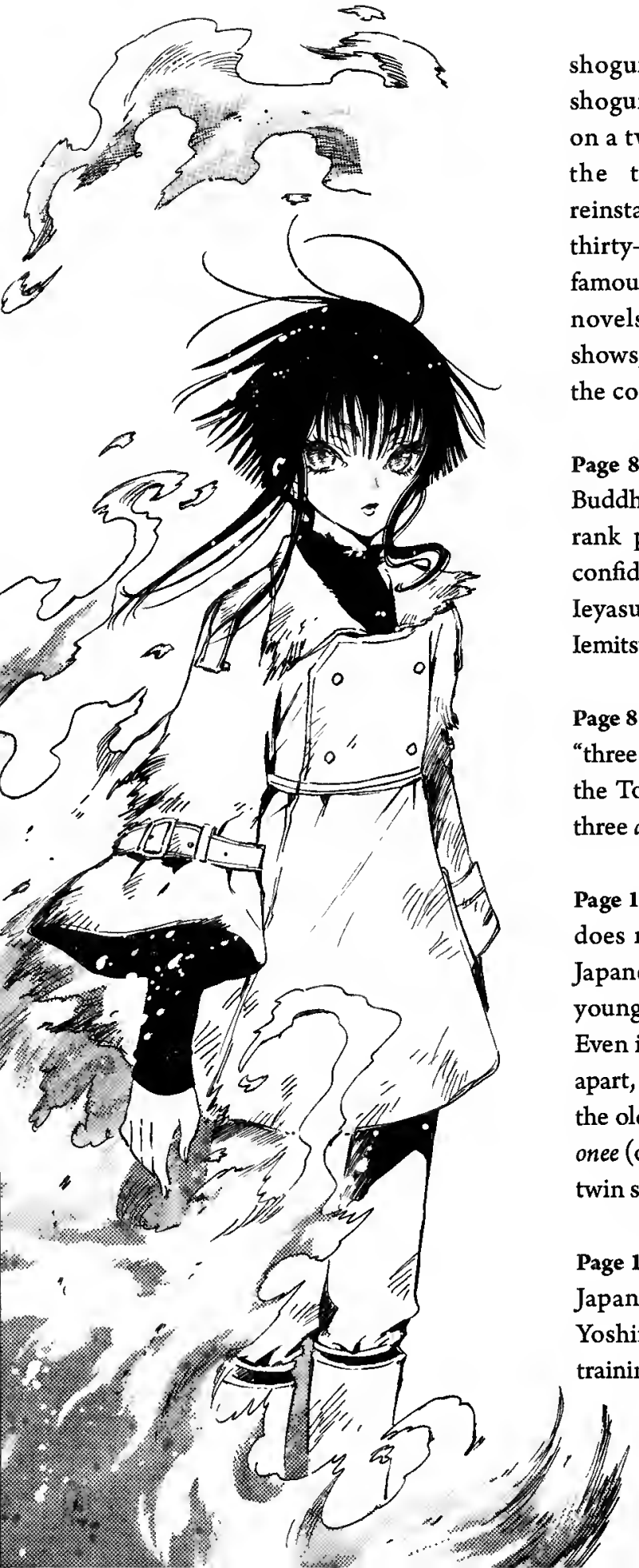
The Toki clan used an image of the five-petaled BELLFLOWER as their seal.
SHWISH

taken as soon as it hardens and placed directly into packs. It is not left in water like other tofu, so it has a stronger soy flavor.

Page 68, Iemitsu Tokugawa: The grandson of Ieyasu Tokugawa (the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate), Iemitsu carried on many of Ieyasu's policies when he became shogun. He centralized the Japanese government, to the dismay of many of the *daimyo* lords, and his anti-Christian efforts caused the Shimabara Rebellion. One other measure that Iemitsu was famous for was the "closed country policy," which was enacted during Iemitsu's shogunate. While most characters in this story are from the Warring States period of Japanese history, Iemitsu was born in the very last years of that period or in the first years of the Edo period that followed—so he and his two vassals lived a generation or two later than most of the historical figures mentioned in this manga.

Page 81, Mitsuyoshi Yagyuu: Yagyuu was a great swordsman for the Tokugawa





shogunate. He was dismissed from the shogunate and is thought to have gone on a twelve-year training journey. After the twelve-year absence, he was reinstated to the shogunate at the age of thirty-six. Yagyuu's name has been made famous by the many depictions of him in novels, manga, films, and television shows, which represent him as a hero of the common man.

Page 83: Tenkai was a Japanese Tendai Buddhist monk who achieved the highest rank possible in his order. He was a confidant to the first Tokugawa shogun, Ieyasu, and served Hidetada as well as Iemitsu Tokugawa.

Page 85: *Mitsuha* is made of the kanji for "three leaves." This could be a reference to the Tokugawa family crest that contains three *aoi* leaves.

Page 104, the twin sister: One thing that does not come across when translating Japanese is the concept of older and younger siblings as pertaining to twins. Even if they are born only a few minutes apart, the younger sibling will still refer to the older sibling as *onii* (older brother) or *onee* (older sister). In this case, Tachibana's twin sister is his older sister.

Page 120, Yoshimoto: A good portion of Japan's comedians come out of the Yoshimoto agency of Osaka, and the training ground for these comedians is the

theater Yoshimoto Shinkigeki. The performances at the theater are always well attended by the comedy-loving Osaka population, and they are televised for a long-running TV show.

Page 130: Yukimura Sanada was a general from the Osaka area who was known as the number-one warrior in Japan during the Warring States period. Sanada became a valued vassal of Hideyoshi Toyotomi, and he fought on the doomed Toyotomi side during the final showdown with the Tokugawa shogunate in 1614 and 1615. During the Summer Siege of Osaka in 1615, legend has it that he was surrounded by the enemy and too exhausted to fight anymore, so he allowed himself to be beheaded. Later literature popularized Yukimura Sanada so that now most Japanese know his name, but there is no written record of him being called "Yukimura." He was born with the name "Nobu Shige," and that was the name he used in all his surviving written correspondence.

Page 136, the Summer Siege of Osaka: In 1603, Ieyasu Tokugawa disbanded the "Council of Five Elders" that ruled Japan, taking all the power onto himself. However, that still left Hideyori Toyotomi—the son and heir of Ieyasu's old sworn lord, Hideyoshi Toyotomi—alive and sowing rebellion in Osaka Castle. In the winter of 1614, Tokugawa forces led an attack on Osaka. Yukimura Sanada and his men were

Iemitsu Tokugawa centralized the Japanese government, to the dismay of many of the daimyo lords.

able to resist, but when Tokugawa brought in artillery and sent sappers under the walls, Hideyori knew the battle was lost. Hideyori ended the siege with a pledge to never rise in rebellion again. This pledge was broken half a year later when Toyotomi gathered even more men to Osaka. Tokugawa came back and, through a series of battles, eventually defeated Toyotomi's army and wiped out the Toyotomi clan. Sanada also died in one of the final battles of that conflict.

Page 142: The Sanada Juuyuushi (literally, the "Sanada Ten Brave People," and commonly translated as the Sanada Ten Braves or the Sanada Ten Heroes) are a team of ninja that Yukimura Sanada was supposed to have commanded during the Warring States period. These characters were immortalized in pulp novels written in the early 1900s (the Tachikawa Bunko), which gave each of the ninja a name and a personality. It is not known if this group actually ever existed.

Page 145, Sasuke Sarutobi: Like the Ten Braves, its most famous member—the ninja expert Sasuke Sarutobi—may or may not have existed in reality. Some say he is drawn from a Meiji era (1868–1912) ninja named Sasuke Kozuki. Others say that Sarutobi actually existed in the Warring States period. However, his legend exists in popular culture, with manga, anime, television shows, and movies starring this ninja character. One manga series was even drawn by the "god of manga" himself—Osamu Tezuka. In most stories about Sarutobi, he has a rival from a different ninja school, Saizou Kirigakure, who later becomes his best friend.

Page 166: *Engetsu* is a Japanese word meaning "crescent moon."

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

四月一日 GATE 7
ゲート セブン

EDITED BY TYPE IT UP
SCANNED BY KICKTHEKITTY

CLAMP